



Committee:

Janet Quarton

Fax No: 0546 606539

Email: jquarton@arcade.demon.co.uk

Sheila Clark

Fax No: 0382 858069

Valerie Piacentini

Committee Assistants: Helen White

Jean Sloan

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Newsletter 35

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okada, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

We would like to welcome Jean Sloan as our new committee assistant. Jean has been helping Helen in covering conventions for us for a while now (since circumstances forced Karen to cut back on her fan activities), and we thought it was time she got official recognition.

Helen has moved. Her new address is:
61 Hill Street, Reading, Berks RG1 2NT.

We will be on holiday for 10 days during August so we would appreciate your sending in submissions for the next newsletter as soon as possible; when we get home we won't have a lot of time to finish getting material ready for the newsletter.

Janet would like to thank Jay Stevensen for getting her record covers back from Creation Records - she had given up hope of ever seeing them again. A warning to others - think twice before lending parts of your Star Trek collection to people - especially firms - you don't know. We've lost one or two photos this way as well.

EMAIL

Janet is now set up with an email address. Thanks to those who have contacted her. It has already proved very useful.

If you have access to electronic mail you can use it to send letters, postbag, news and articles. You can also send your renewal - BUT - you send your credit card details at your own risk. Email is not guaranteed to be secure.

Janet usually logs on for mail at least twice a week, but she may start doing so more often. She will acknowledge all email submissions - usually within a week. If you don't get an acknowledgement send it again as it may have gone astray.

jquarton@arcade.demon.co.uk

If anyone needs to email Sheila urgently, send it to Janet and she will fax it through to Sheila, who can if necessary fax a reply for Janet to email back. Never apologise for using email or fax. The facilities are there to make life easier for both you and us.

IDIC SPECIAL

We have put the IDIC Special on hold at the moment because although we are holding quite a few articles, when we went through them we couldn't really get the right mix for a special. While some articles can be used at any time, others date and if we can't fit them in within a couple of newsletters it isn't really possible to use them at all.

All articles we receive are typed up and proofed ready to go into a newsletter. Our decision on which to use in any one newsletter is influenced by our desire to cover a spread of subjects by as many different writers as possible, while maintaining a balance between the different series. Without continual input from you we cannot do this.

Our apologies to those who have sent articles which we haven't used. If you ever want to find out if we still plan to use an article, just write to Janet.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is Sept 14th (Sept 12th for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send written postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, disc submissions and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets separated from your letter then we can't print it.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you could send your submissions to Janet on disc. We can read BBC & Archimedes discs, MS DOS 3.5" (all formats - but preferably 720K+), 5.25" (720K max. and preferably 720K), Atari ST discs, Amstrad PCW 3" discs. Save files as Word Perfect or as ASCII text files and please say what computer and disc format you are using. Note: if you are sending a disc to Janet do not send a separate hard copy to Sheila. If you have an Amiga or Macintosh, just save an ASCII text file onto a 3.5" disc and send it to Janet.. She will get it transferred to DOS, but please send your disc at least two weeks before the closing date for contributions.

If you want more details write to Janet for an

article on submitting by computer - please enclose an SAE.

Our thanks to Roger Ball, Jackie Comben, Toni Cumming, Jean Donkin, Barbara Ellams, Fiona Fletcher, Peter Fryer, Damien Griffiths, George Haggarty, Lorraine Harvey, Katrina Heintz, Sara Jackson, Paul Lazarus, Stephen McCall, Fiona McDonald, Bill Murphy, Corey Nelson, Harminder Pal, Jim Redrup, Gloria Rigg, Rory Smith, Karen Sparks, Alan Stephen, Jay Stevensen, Philippa Timms, Jenny Turner, Marion van der Voort, Joan Verba, Linda Ware, Edward Woo, Edwin Yau and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

BADGES

You can still order IDIC logo badges from Janet at 50p inclusive of p&p. Please make payment in stamps. Also please enclose a self addressed sticky label or write your name and address on a piece of paper which we can stick on an envelope.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

Sheila took 6 kilos of stamps and two collecting boxes to Forfar in June. The boxes held £29.22 - thanks to the Away Team and Jim Campbell.

We've been asked again what happens to the stamps (all those who have read this before can skip this paragraph). We take them to the Guide Dog training centre at Forfar; they sell them to dealers who resell them to stamp collectors.

There are 4500 - 6000 stamps in a kilo depending on the size of stamp. 162.5 kilos funds the breeding of a puppy (£250); 325 kilos covers its puppy walking (£500); 650 kilos goes towards the basic training (£1000) with a further 650 kilos needed for its advanced training. If we were depending on stamps only, we'd need over 7 million of them to make up the £2000. So as we've said before, even if all you can send is half a dozen stamps any time you write to any of us, we need them, and they do mount up.

USED STAMPS

Any American/Canadian members who

would like to contribute used stamps can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We would like to thank Shaun Brannigan, Julie Burton, Donald Campbell, Christine Carr, Matthew Christie, Clement Chung, Linda Court, Pen Cramphorn, Matthew Christie, Ian Davidson, Karen Davies, Brigitte Doran, Michael Farquhar, Mark French, Gloria Fry, Anne Gregory, HMS Scotia, David Hall, Kartrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Adele Hilton, Glyn Holland, Irena Hradecka, Sandra Hunger, Kirstie Jordan, Nanaki Kaur, James Keating, Anne McKay, Andy McLean, Gill Marsden, Philip Morley, Melvyn D Morrish, Maureen Norton, Provincial Insurance Kendal, Gloria Rigg, Vicky Roberts, Mike Sadler, Neil Safi, Carla Salveta, Baerbel Schmidt, Shirley Shatner, Karen Sparks, Carol Sterenberg, Alexis Stokes, Dave Styles, Margot Sykes, Judith Taylor, Helen Thurlow, Rachel Timms, Linda Ware, Linda Watt, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp

We hope to see some of you at Archon in August - come and say hello at the table. Any contributions of second hand ST items to sell for the Guide Dogs will be gratefully

received You can send them to Sheila or bring them along to the convention.

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter. We plan to post the next newsletter out around September 5th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 10/7/94

ST: The Official Fan Club of the U.K.

Tim Gaskill has asked us to let you know that the Fan Club is currently changing ownership. Absolute Field Marketing no longer have the license to run the Fan Club and it is no longer based in Oxford. The new address for memberships/enquiries is:

STAR TREK: The Official Fan Club
P.O. Box 355 of the UK
Bushey
Watford
WD2 2NA

The next magazine will be delayed but with this change they should be able to upgrade the service and the regularity of the magazine.

Anyone with access to electronic mail can write to Tim direct if they have any questions on the Fan Club.

tim@tgaskill.demon.co.uk



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

SATELLITE

On June 1st the 10.00 pm screening of the original Star Trek on Sky One was replaced by Alien Nation.



On July 4th Sky One started a repeat screening of TNG from episode one. Descent I will be screened on Sunday July 31st followed by Descent II, the start of 7th Season TNG the following week. We have not heard what will happen to the remaining episodes

of 2nd season DS9 but they may be shown after TNG's 7th season has completed its run..

Here is a check list of 7th season TNG.

- 253 Descent, part 2
- 254 Liaisons
- 255 Interface
- 256 Gambit, part 1
- 257 Gambit, part 2
- 258 Phantasms
- 259 Dark Page
- 260 Attached
- 261 Force of Nature
- 262 Inheritance
- 263 Parallels
- 264 The Pegasus
- 265 Homeward
- 266 Sub Rosa
- 267 Lower Decks
- 268 Thine Own Self
- 269 Masks
- 270 Eye of the Beholder
- 271 Genesis
- 272 Journey's End
- 273 First Born
- 274 Bloodlines
- 275 Emergence
- 276 Preemptive Strike
- 277 All Good Things

QVC are now showing the Star Trek programme monthly instead of weekly - apparently because of the lack of new merchandise and July and August being a slack selling period. It is planned to show the July one on the 17th.

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

Rumour has it that Voyager's premier has been put back to February 1995 because there is a delay in completing casting.

According to the Daily Express 2/6/94, Kirstie Alley has been cast as the Captain in Voyager, fighting off Susan Dey, Amanda Donohoe and Cherie Lunghi. On the other hand Starburst 191 says Paramount want Jonathan Frakes in the Captain's chair, as Will Riker's transporter twin Tom and the Chicago Tribune 5/7/94 says the captain may be Lindsay Wagner.

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

TNG has not been doing as well as usual in the ratings with 3 - 4 million viewers. Red Dwarf leads the BBC 2 ratings most weeks.

For some reason the BBC have cancelled TNG until September.

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
181	Reunion	18/5/94
182	Future Imperfect	25/5/94
183	Final Mission	1/6/94
184	The Loss	8/6/94
185	Data's Day	15/6/94

STAR TREK VII

Current info from faql.rec.arts.startrek. movies by Otto Heuer as of 10/6/94.

Title: Star Trek: Generations
 Writers: Ron Moore and Brannon Braga
 (from a Moore/Braga/Berman story)
 Director: David Carson (he did the DS9 pilot, "Yesterday's Enterprise", and episodes of Doogie Howser and LA Law)
 Producer: Rick Berman
 Line Producer: Bernie Williams
 Exec Producer: Bernie Williams
 Co-producer: Peter Lauritson
 Composer: Dennis McCarthy
 Sets: Herman Zimmerman
 Costumes: Bob Blackman
 Cast: William Shatner (Kirk)
 Whoopi Goldberg (Guinan)
 Malcolm McDowell (Soran)
 and the TNG cast (assuming not Wheaton, Muldaur, or Crosby)
 Doohan and Koenig are in a 10-minute intro/cameo.
 Filming: some last location shooting through end of June 1994
 Release: late-November/December 1994
 Budget: \$25,000,000

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

• SHAKEUP ON DS9 STAFF

Over on DS9, Peter Allen Fields (writer or co-writer of such episodes as "Half a Life", "Cost of Living", "The Inner Light", "Dax", "Progress", "Duet", "Necessary Evil" and "Crossover") has been fired by new DS9 executive producer Ira Steven Behr.

Behr takes over on DS9 as Rick Berman, Michael Piller, and Jeri Taylor focus their energies on "Star Trek: Voyager". Behr has written or co-written episodes such as "Yesterday's Enterprise", "Captain's Holiday", "QPid", "Babel" and "The Nagus."

The firing of Fields was reportedly because his work was no longer up to par.

Ron Moore has reportedly taken the position of Supervising Producer on DS9, with Rene Echevarria as a Co-Producer. (From Dateline: Starfleet 48)

• Avery Brooks directed the second season episode Tribunal. "From the beginning of DS9 I knew I wanted to direct," Brooks said. "I should have made this turn a while ago, but it was just a matter of timing that I didn't do it earlier. I like to think of myself as an actor-director."

Though he didn't really enjoy directing himself as Cmdr. Benjamin Sisko, Brooks says he had a good time guiding his co-stars and working with the show's behind-the-scenes crew (including director of photography Marvin Rush, executive producer Rick Berman and the episodes editors) to fashion an exciting and thought provoking hour of television.

Some fans find Brooks' portrayal of Sisko a bit too stiff. He considers the criticism to be misguided. "Tell me what commanding officer in the military doesn't have Sisko's distance and this veneer. Ask anybody in the military if they had a commanding officer they could just hang out with."

High Trek 17/6/94.

Check list of the latter part of 2nd season DS9

- 435 Paradise
- 436 Shadow Play
- 437 Playing God
- 438 Profit and Loss
- 439 Blood Oath
- 440 The Maquis, part I
- 441 The Maquis, part II
- 442 The Wire
- 443 Crossover
- 444 The Collaborator
- 445 Tribunal
- 446 The Dominion

MISC

• **UK Professional Star Trek Con.** It has been confirmed by Eric Stilwell that Horizon ST Con London "Generations" will take place Feb 4/5 at the Albert Hall, with Stewart, Spiner & Sirtis, Ron Moore & Brannon Braga, plus the ST7 & Voyager premieres. Official announcement & publicity to come "later in the summer" and tickets likely to be from the Albert Hall box office (do they know what they're in for?). Mind you, half fandom seems to know about it already. - info Margaret Rainey.

• **Future Visions** (info from Paul Hubbard on Fidonet Trek.UK)

This is a important message to anyone who is still waiting for Star Trek items from the Future Visions catalogue.

A subsidiary company who advertise in the Future Visions catalogue, Absolute Field Marketing, went into liquidation at the beginning of last week (week ending 25/6/94) and all supplies, stocks and orders have been suspended.

I have been informed that a liquidator company has taken over all accounts and that any customers who are waiting for their order should re-direct their claims to this company, in which you should give your name, details of the company involved (Absolute Field Marketing) and the nature of your claim. All claims will be dealt with on a rolling scale, in other words, a big company claim gets first bite at the apple and so on down the chain leaving individual claimees at the bottom. Don't be put off by this however; claim for your cash if you have an outstanding order for goods.

The numbers and addresses are as follows.

Measham Handling Centre (who distribute.
Unit C goods)
Westminster Trading Estate,
Tamworth Road,
Measham,
Swadlincote,
Derbyshire,
DE12 7DT
Tel: 0530 270677 Fax: 0530 270879

Future Visions
Offices tel: 0865 883330

Liquidators:
Spiers and Company,
Regent Corporate Services Ltd,
Montdoor House,
26-30 Highgate Hill,
London,
N19 5NL.

- Paramount Publishing will sell six non-core businesses. Viacom is also planning to sell Madison Square Garden, its sports team and the MSG cable network, to recoup the expense of acquiring Paramount.

Interestingly, Paramount will change its name back to Simon & Schuster. Originally Gulf and Western, the parent company changed its name to Paramount Communications to highlight what had become primarily a media company built around movies and book publishing. Simon & Schuster became Paramount Publishing to keep everything simpler. But, since sold to Viacom, Paramount Publishing really doesn't exist. Renaming it Simon & Schuster will bring back a venerable name in American publishing going back decades. (info June SF Chronicle.)

- Paramount Network. 29/4/94

Paramount Network said its first weekly broadcasts will air on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 20.00 - 22.00, beginning in January.

Its line-up of original programming will be led by Star Trek: Voyager

- Thousands of "Trekkies" arrive in Toronto Stadium May 25th Reuter News Service. Thousands of fans saw the final

episode of TNG on Toronto's SkyDome giant television screen. Skydome officials gave thousands of free tickets for the 7pm to 11pm airing of a TNG marathon on its Jumbotron screen (which it claims to be the largest television screen in the world).

Organisers expected more than 40,000 fans - many slept outside the stadium, hoping to get good seats when the gates opened.

- Spectrum Holobyte Inc. have signed an agreement with Paramount to produce interactive software products based on Star Trek Generations. (Reuter News Service 19/5/94)

- "Support for Spock's Warped View of Space" The Guardian 9/6/94

According to a paper published in the journal Classical and Quantum Gravity, the equations of the general theory of relativity really do permit spacetime to be warped in such a way that a spaceship can, in effect, travel faster than light... The trick is to find a way to make space itself carry the ship along for the ride, like a giant wave carrying a surfer.

Of course there is a snag... negative energies are involved in creating space-warp. Bizarre though that sounds, physicists can actually create regions of negative energy on a small scale already.

[Janet - very abbreviated. I hope it makes sense]

- "Surfing to the stars on warped space" New Scientist 11/6/94

Another article about the same paper, but this one says that scientists have yet to find negative matter.

- "Bar Trekking" Starburst 191

Saturday night is Star Trek night at Pages Bar Westminster.. Customers rub shoulders with Klingons, Romulans and even the occasional Captain Kirk look-alike while catching up with the latest news, views and adventures of their smallscreen heroes.

Before the Star Trek night the pub had to close on a Saturday night due to the lack of custom but now they have 70 people waiting outside that night. Benton told Starburst, "We've got 500 people on our mailing list, including everything from Managing

Directors to Civil Servants - you name a career, I have a member from it. "It's such a great atmosphere; 200 friendly people all talking to each other. In a normal pub, if you went up to a group of strangers they'd think you were weird, but with Star Trek as the central subject, everybody can talk to everybody."

• From Space Time Continuum, March/ April May/June 94

Paramount Parks plans a Star Trek "total guest experience" in their facilities: 40,000 square feet of ST themed rides.

DS9 tied with Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman for Best New Series award from the 8th annual Satellite TV Week Dish ceremonies.

Trek Photo Book - due for release this fall.

This book is written by several contributors and edited by J.M. Dillard.

Art Book - Pocket Books are to publish a "coffee table" book of ST production art. They are looking for original art from any of the series or movies. If you have any write or call and describe what you have. Private collectors may remain anonymous. Do not send originals. Kevin Ryan, Pocket Books, 1230 6th Ave., New York, NY 10020, USA. Tel: 212 698 7271.

Hallmark Xmas Ornament for 1994 is a Klingon Bird of Prey.

RUMOUR

Brannon Braga has been hired by Steven Spielberg for the new Dr Who series.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Star Trek IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Qarton



The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 97** Jun/ July 1994. Articles in this issue include: An update on ST Generations; Roddenberry Remembered by Bjo Trimble; a profile of Trekcover artist, Keith Birdsong; questions answered by Richard Arnold; plotting the course of the ST comic books; a look at some ST collectibles; an article on the final TNG episode, All Good Things; TNG's place in Gene's Universe; The Grand Slam II Creation Convention with guests from all three series; interviews with Nana Visitor and William Campbell.

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB OF THE UK No 3** Spring 1994.

Articles in this issue include: an article about Star Trek Welcomittee; the original series by Stuart Clark; Majel Barrett; a Star Trek Timeline; Jeri Taylor; Star Trek computer games; Star Trek collectibles; reviews of the book Mirror, Mirror and the audio, Conversational Klingon.

• **STARLOG 203** June 1994. Includes an article about Robert Sabaroff who wrote Immunity Syndrome.

• **STARLOG 204** July 1994. Includes an articles about the end of TNG as a series; the cast as directors; writer Jill Sherman who wrote the DS9 episode Captive Pursuit.

• **TV ZONE 55** June 1994. Includes articles on William Shatner; and the end of TNG as a series (includes some excellent photos of the cast at a party).

• **TV ZONE 56** July 1994. Includes an article on Richard James, TNG Set Designer.

• **ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS**

Issue 70 - Article on the Romulan Empire plus episode guides to Aquiel and Face of the Enemy.

Issue 71 - Article on Data plus episode guides to Tapestry and Birthright, Part 1.

Issue 72 - Article on The End of An Era plus episode guides to Birthright, Part 2 and Starship Mine.

Issue 73 - Enterprise Memories - the cast's favourite episodes, plus episode guides to Lessons & The Chase

• **STARBURST 190** June 1994. Includes the first part of an interview with TNG executive producer, Jeri Taylor

• **STARBURST 191** July 1994. Includes the second part of an interview with TNG executive producer, Jeri Taylor

• **STARBURST STAR TREK SPECIAL Special #20.** Includes articles on Peter Fields, Harve Bennett, Roy Broacksmith, Gates McFadden, Robert Wolfe, Linda Thorson, Computer Trek, Vulcans and episode guides to TNG 7th season and DS9 2nd season.

• **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 28** (Starlog) Articles on 'Q Quips', and writers Lance Dickson), Jean Louise Matthews & Ronald Wilkerson, Dan Koepel, Nicholas Sagan; plus reviews other episodes, The Pegasus, Homeward, Sub Rosa, Lower Decks, Thine Own Self.

• **ST: DEEP SPACE NINE 7** (Starlog) Articles on the episodes Rules of Acquisition, Necessary Evil, Second Sight, Sanctuary, Rivals, The Alternate, Armageddon Game, Whispers, Paradise.

• **USA Today - Vol 12 No. 176** Tue 24/5/94
Short article on the end of the 7 year run of TNG. Brent Spiner commented 'We're being treated just as much like meat as we ever were - maybe a prime cut of meat instead of hamburger now, I'm very excited about the possibilities... but my concern is that we've been doing what I consider feature quality TV for seven years. I'm not sure I would

have made the leap quite this way!"

• **"Beam me up a buyer for Star Trek"** Western Mail 12/5/94.

Drama Student Mia Beresford won a collection of the 79 original ST episodes on CIC video and is hoping to sell them as she wants to go to a convention in the States.

• **"To Boldly Go No More"** Today 13/5/94
Article about the ending of the TNG TV series.

• **"Next Generation Finale is Out of This World"** Chicago Tribune 22-28/5/94.
General article about Star Trek, its history and future. It mentions the Star Trek bulletin boards and says that Brent Spiner has been known to contribute.

• **"Steam Me Up Scotty"** Sun 31/5/94
Apparently blue movie makers have transformed Kirk and Spock into outer-space sex maniacs in a 65-minute film entitled, Sex Trek - The Next Penetration. A sequel is called Sex Trek II - The Search for Sperm. A third film is planned and the trilogy will be screened on the Adult Channel. Paramount say they are far from happy but these films do not break their copyright so there's little they can do about it.

• **"Star Wars" National Enquirer**
According to this article William Shatner and Patrick Stewart were feuding on the Star Trek Generations set.

[Personally I take anything the Enquirer prints with a pinch of salt. Patrick Stewart said on a chat show that he got on very well with William Shatner. Patrick was laughing and joking about some of the stories they told each other and he sounded genuine. Anyhow, I doubt that two actors could behave as childish as depicted in this article.]

• **"Star Trek Feud"** National Enquirer 14/6/94.

Another 'questionable' article saying that Marina Sirtis blames William Shatner for cutting her part in the movie. Her original five or six scenes have been reduced to two.
As usual some UK papers picked up these stories.

• "Cop gets phasered out over death grip."
Daily Record 4/7/94 Veteran cop Paul Adams has been booted out of the force for using Mr Spock's Vulcan death grip.

Paul explained how he clamped his

fingers around the carotid artery in victim's necks, and shut off their blood supply until they fainted. A police spokeswoman said "The Chief feels the officer has overstepped the mark."

☆☆☆☆



Cast & Crew NEWS



• **Gene Roddenberry** - Star Trek and Beyond, a biography on Gene, was due to air in the States on July 14th.

• **Patrick Stewart** presented "To the Moon and Beyond", the first programme in a series celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Lunar Landings which was shown on the Discovery Channel 20/6/94. A repeat was shown of a programme **William Shatner** narrated "Astronaut's View of the Earth", on 22/6/94.

Patrick won the PREMIER award for Best Male Voice-Over Acting in a multimedia computer game, for his role as the King in "Lands of Lore." (Computer Gaming World - via Dateline: Starfleet 48)

The Late Show with David Letterman - Sky One 6/7/94. Broadcast in the USA on CBS 5/7/94.

Patrick Stewart told David Letterman that he was in New York filming the movie version of the play "Jeffrey". In the Autumn he returns to the UK to begin work on the play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf". Patrick, who has grown a moustache and a goatee beard, was suffering a painful neck, which Patrick put down to hanging his head after the defeat of the Republic of Ireland in the World Cup and leaning back watching the 4th of July fireworks. (info Alan Stephen)

• **William Shatner** - TekWar is to become a TV series. CTV Television Network Ltd recently reached a deal with William Shatner, Atlantis Films and Western International Communications Ltd to produce a season of 24 hour-long episodes. The series will cost \$36 million to produce and will be broadcast

on Toronto-based CTV in the 1994-1995 season with production beginning in July. (info TV Zone 56)

Some papers have been printing reports that Marcy has filed for a divorce from Bill, citing irreconcilable differences. They have been married for 20 years and a friend says that Bill and Marcy had one of Hollywood's longest marriages

• **Leonard Nimoy** has called on **William Shatner** to star in Duet, a true story based on the life of Siamese twins, which he directs and stars in.

• **Walter Koenig** appeared in the Babylon 5 episode shown on Ch. 4 on 20/6/94.

• **Nichelle Nichols** is starred in "Nunsense 2" (sic) at Colorado's Arvada Center through June 26. - info Dateline: Starfleet 48

• **Colm Meaney** At the Banff TV Festival, "Snapper" (starring Colm Meaney) won for best made-for-TV movie. ("Snapper" was aired on the BBC prior to its cinematic run in the US.) - info Dateline: Starfleet 48

• **Marina Sirtis** "On the Final Frontier Edinburgh Evening News 4/6/94.

Sirtis was born in Tottenham, London. "My life is so different now, but I'm still in touch with reality. When I visit London I still sleep on my mother's sofa in her one-bedroom flat. I still do my own shopping, washing and cooking" Last year Marina was back in Britain for the Warp One convention but being back didn't stir any nostalgia for the old country in the actress. "They have everything in L.A. you could possibly want, except rain, and I hate rain, so there's nothing I miss,

apart from family and friends."

- **Whoopi Goldberg** announced on the "Larry King Live" show that she plans to marry a union organizer, Lyle Trachtenberg, possibly in 1995.

- **John de Lancie** was born and reared in Philadelphia. His credits include soap opera, films and guest spots in numerous TV series.

Future projects include everything from a lead role in *Arcade II* to providing narration for the audio cassette version of Peter David's novel *Q-Squared* to starring with Kelly Lynch in a pilot for a dramatic TV series, *On the Line*.

When he is not working on film or television he teaches classes at a Los Angeles acting school. He also directs and performs radio plays for National Public Radio. (info High Trek 20/5/94)

- **Aron Eisenberg**, the 24-year-old who plays Nog, was born in Hollywood but grew up in Thousand Oaks, California. He had kidney problems as a child and spent the first three years of high school on dialysis. A transplant operation at the end of his junior year was a success, but Eisenberg's psyche needed time to heal. "I always felt left out and was made fun of because I was short (because of the kidney problems) and didn't go to parties and football games." Finally someone suggested acting. "I found where I belonged."

For many viewers the relationship between Jake Sisko and his Ferengi pal, Nog, seems to closely resemble the friendship shared by Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Eisenberg also sees a parallel. "They're friends, they play, they argue and they always try to have a good time because it can be tough to have fun on the space station." (info High Trek 3/6/94)

- **Franz Joseph**, author of the "Star Fleet Technical Manual" and the "Star Trek Blueprints", died on June 2nd. His works also served as inspiration in part for the game "Star Fleet Battles." - info Dateline: Starfleet 48

- Fan Mail - Try actors' clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not

reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices.)

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail to Lincoln Enterprises, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA.

Exceptions:

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meehan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9008, USA

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, March/April May/June 94. See zine ads for ordering details.

- **William Shatner** directed an episode of *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues*. Though polite, he worked very fast and expected all to keep up with him. He advised Chris Potter on acting like a hero: never look down - a hero's eyes should always be searching, searching, searching.

Bill's *Tekwar* mini-series is airing in syndication as part of PTEN's group of "Action Pack" TV shows. Each of the 4 mini-films was shown again in May. There is talk of making it into a regular series but nothing has been settled. The shows are filmed in Toronto, Canada. William Shatner wrote *TekWar* as a starring vehicle for himself, but decided to "call the shots" as a producer, director and recurring character, rather than star.

The earthquake did considerable damage to Bill's home in the San Fernando Valley hills.

WS appeared as the exiled Tyrant, Milos Tezlof, in an episode of *seaQuest DSV*. The *seaQuest* monitor reading under his picture was UNDW-JTK-NCC-1701.

- **George Takei** plays Doc Valentine in the fantasy comedy western, *Oblivion*. The film was previewed at the Houston WorldFest Film Festival and George made a surprise

appearance.

George narrates the audio tape, *Transformations: The Adventure of Captain Sulu*. It is the first in a series of tapes (no books).

George's autobiography is due for release in the autumn.

• **Jonathan Frakes** is the voice of Xantos & Marina Sirtis voices Demona in the animation *Gargoyles*. They are the villains among heroic mythical stone creatures who come alive at night. The series starts in the States in the Fall.

Jonathan Frakes's wife, Genie Francies is expecting their first child.

• **Patrick Stewart** is in the telefilm, *In Search of Dr Seuss*. He narrates many documentaries.

• **Brent Spiner** was a presenter of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences 15th annual College TV Awards. He and Patrick Stewart are going scuba-diving with Arthur C. Clarke.

• **LeVar Burton** will be a new father soon. His wife, Stephanie is pregnant.

• **Gates McFadden** is only the second female to direct a *Star Trek* episode.

• **Majel Barrett Roddenberry** got the 1994 Outreach Award from the Department of Physics Perdue University, for her efforts in sparking the imagination in students throughout the world.

Majel hosted an Academy night & 'thank you to TNG' party for TNG & DS9 cast and crew.

Majel was on the set on the last day of TNG shooting and attended the wrap party in Union Station on April 2.

• **Avery Brooks** acts and sings in a one-man stage presentation, *The Life of Paul Robeson*.

• **Colm Meaney** was nominated for the Golden Globe's Best Actor, Musical/Comedy, for *The Snapper*, but lost to Robin Williams.

• **Max Grodenchik** stars in the title role of the feature film, *Rumpelstiltskin*.

☆☆☆☆



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOK UPDATE

Info TV Zone and is subject to change.

Aug STTNG 31: Foreign Foes by David Galanter

Starfleet Academy 5: Atlantis Station

ST Adventure 7: Planet of Judgement by Joe Haldeman.

Sept STDS9 7: Warchild by Esther Freisner.

ST 71: Crossroads by Barbara Hamley.

Oct STTNG 32: Requiem by Friedman & Ryan.

STDS9 Young Adult 3: Prisoners of Peace by John Peel.

To the Stars: George Takei's autobiography.

ST Adventure 8: Devil World by Gordon Ecklund.

Nov STTNG Dark Mirror by Diane Duane
STDS9 8: Anti-Matter by John Vornholt
The Making of STDS9 by Gar & Judith Stevens.

Star Trek Federation by G & J Stevens hb.

Captain's Log Season 7 Supplement.

The Law of Trek by Paul Joseph.

ST: Great Birds of the Galaxy.

Dec ST 72: The Better Man by Howard Weinstein.

STDS9 Young Adult 4: The Pet by Gilden & Peterson.

Star Trek: Generations by John Vornhold
ST Adventure 9: Fate of the Phoenix by Marshak & Culbreath.

Making of the Trek Films by Edward Gross

• VIDEO UPDATE

- 25/7 - TNG 84 Lower Decks/Thine Own Self
DS9 18 - Paradise/Shadowplay
- 8/8 - TNG 85 Masks/Eye of the Beholder
DS9 19 Playing God/Profit and Loss
- 22/8 - TNG 86 Genesis/Journey's End
DS9 20 Profit and Loss/Blood Oath
- 5/9 - TNG 87 First Born/Bloodlines
DS9 21 The Maquis, Parts I & II
- 22/9 - TNG 88 Emergence/Preemptive Str.
DS9 22 The Wire/ The Collaborator
- 3/10 - TNG 89 All Good Things Pts 1 & 2
- 31/10 - DS9 23 Tribunal/The Dominion
- 5/12 - TNG All Good Things + Journey's End
(documentary)

• **Star Trek Creator, the Authorized Biography** by David Alexander. Published by Roc Books, a division of Penguin Books.

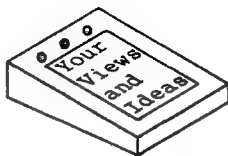
• **Gene Roddenberry, The Last Conversation**, written by Yvonne Fern - due this summer. This book is part of the Portraits of American Genius series by the University of California Press.

• **USS Enterprise NCC 1701 D** in pewter. £195. Franklin Mint, 138 Bromley Road, London SE6 1BP.

• CIC Video sent the following in reply to questions by Lee Oatway.

We do not currently have the rights to "Leonard Nimoy: Star Trek Memories", though we are attempting to obtain them.

There are currently no plans to release the Widescreen version of the Extended Edition of Star Trek: The Motion Picture.



We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

• **Clement Chung - Ipswich**

Quote - "The Ferengis are much stronger than they look, Captain". Who are you afraid of first, Data or Worf? In The Perfect Mate, the aliens in the bar were more afraid of Worf than of Data. They knew he was an android, but did not realise he was stronger than Worf. Does size really matter, I ask myself?

I too am looking forward to the TNG movies, but I would like them to continue with an eighth season. The more episodes there are, the better! but I hate the thought of watching reruns and videos for two years between movies. I welcome Voyager, but why can't they adjust the storylines to fit TNG? If Patrick Stewart wants out, why not promote Riker? (Is it true, according to SkyText, the 7th season won't be shown until early 1995 if they get it? The current DS9 season is on and only made a few months ago.)

Sometimes I say to myself, "Only if

they stayed on board." Why not breed some of the plants with the spores we saw in This Side of Paradise? This will cure Humans in every way - McCoy said they were still cured after the spores had left. Wouldn't you take them with you? If John Doe (Transfigurations) stayed on board, he could be an advantage in all departments. Why didn't he stay? He did like Beverly.

I have just seen an episode of Murder She Wrote (1985); in the credits was Genie Francis. There were three ladies in it - can anyone please describe Mrs Frakes to me (is she blonde, short, etc?)

Congrats to Mr Stewart for the Olivier Award for best entertainer. I didn't see the play but have the audio tapes.

Why don't you print some photos from the cons? I can't attend some cons because of the distance, and it's nice to see some candid shots. Also could you compile an article which tells some of the stories behind the scenes the cast have told at cons? And is there a TNG blooper tape? If so, where could I hire it?

[Sheila - We'd like to include photos and artwork, but we frankly don't have the space to print pictures more than once a flood. Behind-the-scenes stories? The reports of the guest talks usually include at least a mention of these. TNG blooper tape - there was a pirated first season one available in America on NTSC format six years ago but I've no idea where you could get a copy from now. To the best of my knowledge, no further ones were made.]

• **Sheila Clark - Dundee**

To Ann Coulstock - Re Lessons and Picard's romance. Maybe I'm just cynical, but I think there are two problems with a Captain having a romantic involvement with one of his crew, especially a junior officer. The first is the situation that arose in the episode - danger to her life in the course of a mission; the second is that, whether true or not, it's going to be said that she gets away with murder, even if the tongues saying it are only jealous and have no justification for it, and ship's morale would suffer to some extent as a result of the gossip. Romantic

though it might be to have the Captain (or any senior officer) married or 'significantly involved' it's just not practical unless she is one of the civilians on board (Captain April notwithstanding).

To David J Raper (and others) - Re late motherhood. As I said, fair enough if the woman is still fertile at 60 - or 70 - or even 80. However, if she has passed natural child-bearing age, she has to use donated eggs, so the child is not in fact hers (though it might be her husband's). This is *not* the same sort of option as that of an 80-year-old man who is still fertile fathering a child.

To Anne Gregory - Re the remarks made about Bill Shatner - I suspect there was one original comment, probably taken out of context and thoroughly exaggerated by one paper, and the subsequent 'reports' have simply been other papers copying the 'facts' from each other.

• **Maureen Norton - 98 Hilton Rd, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9XD**

Although I have been a loyal fan for years, being stuck at home with a back injury and having no-one to talk Trek to prompted me to join a few clubs.

There is much more to fandom than I ever expected, so much merchandise, books, etc to buy and so many conventions I'm missing out on! (Due to lack of physical health, transport and funds). Thanks to the good ladies of 1701 A - D I had a day out at Lalcon (despite Arctic temperatures) which was only a few miles away. I was going to T'Kon, but had to cancel due to a bad patch, never even receiving a receipt for my cheque let alone the 'maybe' refund.

My husband is sports mad and doesn't share my love of sci-fi and fantasy, although my two boys are on the right track (Trek?) If anyone out there is in a similar situation, I would love to hear from you, especially if you are in my area.

I must admit, Worf is one of my favourites, but this 'relationship' with Troi makes me cringe. I wish Thomas Riker would turn up and claim her! I like Worf's

ponytail, but how come his hair colour changes so much? Is Mr Mot using 'Just for Klingons' or 'Klingon 2000'?

Can anybody explain the differences between Odan and Dax? Is there more than one species of humanoid host? Also the crew of Enterprise-D had never heard of Trill when Sisko seems to have known Dax for years. And did anyone else notice the similarity between Jadzia's freckles and those of Kamala (The Perfect Mate)?

I loved the sloppy Klingon chef on the Promenade (Melora) - has he got a name? Also good to see someone in a wheelchair; the over all design hasn't changed much! I refer to mine as the Captain's Yacht!

• **Andrew William Merritt - Carlisle**

First of all may I say I believe the IDIC newsletter is far superior to the Official Fan Club of the UK in information and reviews.

Please forgive me if some of these questions have been asked (and answered) before. 1) Why has the Bird of Prey's design not changed over the past 150 years? 2) Do all Klingon battle cruisers have the same design, or are there variations (eg Enterprise and Reliant)?

To Jason Wells (P28) - I totally disagree with your views on ST Voyager. Voyager is a completely different concept. The world of Star Trek has to expand, and it will. I am sure that this series will be as successful as TOS and TNG. What do members think?

At last I have bought DS9-Emissary Special Edition. I was very surprised at the price (as many people were) for what I got on the video. I didn't think too much of The Making of DS9. I wanted to see more of how the model ships and stations were constructed and superimposed. I am very much into 'ship shots'. Does anyone know where I can get a poster of the 'film version' Enterprise? [Sheila - Try Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield]

I'm 15 - are there any other teenage members?

• **Rebekah Owens - Birmingham**

To Marie I J Park - I repeat the comments I made about Dr Soong (NL 31 & 33) since they are the way I have interpreted the 'evidence' of various episodes. I fail to see why you should get so heated in justifying your viewpoint since both of us are, after all, speculating upon a *fiction* and creating our own fiction from this - part of the enjoyment of fandom and the reason why I wrote the article in the first place.

[Ed - Since it's fairly obvious that neither Marie nor Rebekah is going to convince the other, I think this comment brings this particular discussion to a natural end.]

I was also keenly involved in the debate that arose from Keren Breen's concerns about Keiko O'Brien's ability to teach without any formal training. Let me just say that my admiration for Keiko has increased tenfold - if you can do that which I have now *resigned* from doing - Sister, you're a better gal than I!

• **Tina Baker - Leicester**

Firstly, I am coming to the end of my first year's membership. As well as thanking Janet, Sheila, Valerie and all other involved for their hard work, I'd like to thank you for all the letters and articles which make the newsletter so enjoyable. Keep 'em coming!

Re Gates McFadden's mixed feelings about the forthcoming movie (N/L 34), I have to agree with her when she says "The first one is a little fast". I would rather wait that bit longer and go and see a movie with an exciting plot, good script with superb *refreshed* acting - and let's not forget state of the art SFX, which can sometimes take months to put together.

I don't know how much ST Generations is costing Paramount, but I'm sure that investing some of the vast millions that TNG has made over the years to produce a motion picture that will not only pull true fans to the box office but non-Trekkers also, would be more profitable for Paramount. I sincerely hope we *don't* see a rushed, slightly better than average feature length episode on the silver screen.

In the 5th season episode *The Next Phase*, in which Ro and Geordi are phased into another dimension, they both pass through solid matter, ie walls in the Enterprise. Can someone explain to me why they don't sink through the decks of the ship? I know if this happened they would have floated out into space and died, and there would have been no episode - but what kind of explanation is that?! I'm sure one of you will find a highly technical and slightly more imaginative hypothesis than this.

• **Steve Davies - Tuffley, Glos**

To Marion van der Voort - Thank you for telling me that the copy of the *Star Trek Encyclopedia* that I've just bought from those lovely people at Sky probably has about 30 pages of mistakes in it! That's really cheered me up - not!

I'm getting married on August 20th - wish me luck! (I hope I can convince Sandra my fiancée to let me wear my *Star Trek* tie!) *[All the best to you both, Steve, from all of us at IDIC.]*

• **Pen Cramphorn - Pudsey, W Yorks**

To Dave Styles (p 25) - I wouldn't worry too much about the various doctors fiddling around in labs - after all, we're watching a show where people not only boldly go warping around space faster than the speed of light, get transported from place to place by a device which scrambles their molecules - but come back from the dead! If one is willing to suspend disbelief on this sort of scale, a bit of teaching and fiddling is easy to swallow!

To everyone re the 'Baby at 55+' debate - Isn't the name of this club IDIC? - ie The Glory of Creation etc? Isn't it a matter of personal choice? Surely what's important is that children are loved and wanted and made to feel they are valued - and an older person is just as capable of this as a younger one. As to the question of technological intervention - what about IVF? Hardly natural - but so what? To Tracey Saunders (P41), isn't having a baby purely for selfish reasons at any age? I didn't have mine for altruistic reasons - I had them because I wanted them!

To Anne Gregory (P23) - I agree with you about certain people leaving William Shatner alone - one wonders, though, if the alleged feud is simply media hype - after having read in *Some Other Rainbow* the way the press treated Jill Morrel when John McCarthy was released, I just don't believe anything they print any more.

To Catherine Carter (P34) - the CT episode is called *Friday's Child* because in the American version of the rhyme, Friday's child is full of woe.

To Matthew Helmsley (P51) - I haven't seen any DS9 yet, unfortunately, but my favourite characters in CT and TNG are Spock and Capt Picard.

• **Moirá Warburton - Ickenham, Middx**

To Jill Clements - Re Greg Evigan. He was in a series in the early 80s called 'C J McKay and my best friend Bear'. He played a truck driver who travelled America with his chimpanzee. He was also in a series shown last year on Channel 4 called 'My Two Dads'. It was a comedy series and he played a character called Joey.

Can anyone remember Stephen Collins being in a series called *Tales of the Golden Monkey*? I think he owned a dog called Jake who wore an eye patch. If anyone can remember, can they please give me as much information about it as possible. I am trying to convince a recently converted *Star Trek* fan that this programme actually existed.

• **Katrina Heintz - Bathgate**

To Disgruntled IDIC member - I've also had a problem with autograph requests. I sent for Brent Spiner's autograph at an address published in IDIC approximately 9 months ago. So far I have received no reply.

To Karen Embacher - Can you send me your new address? Hope to see you at Contagion.

Re ST:Voy - I'm saddened that ST:NG has come to an end, but they will live on, as has the OS. As for ST:Voy I shall wait and see; hopefully with Kirsty Alley as the Captain it should be a good start. It will after

all still be in the Star Trek universe.

• **Michelle Oldroyd - Enfield Highway, Middx**

To Peter Benei - There is no way Data could have actually felt surprised (Datalore). Perhaps he considered how a Human would respond, although he hasn't tried to emulate the emotional side of Humans before (except humour).

Does anyone have any ideas about communication devices in the 24th century? Do people living on planets have similar devices as the ship's communications systems?

I am interested in trying a TNG role-playing game. Does anyone plan to bring one to Archon '94?

I regularly buy the ST:TNG Poster Magazine and the Final Frontier, but I wasn't aware that there was a DS9 magazine. Does anyone else have problems obtaining a copy? It's hard enough to get the other two magazines and I have to order them from newagents. *[Sheila - The DS9 magazine comes from Starlog, as did a TNG magazine. Try contacting At the Sign of the Dragon, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE]*

I wasn't aware that there were conventions and zines until I joined IDIC a year ago. I only read the professional novels before and I think the zines are much better. Peter David is a very good writer and I've enjoyed all of his Trek novels, but some of the other professional writers have probably never seen an episode of Trek before.

To Neil Safi - I do not see how the holographic character in ST:Voy could be sentient. A holographic character would not actually live and would have to be in an environment where (s)he could exist, such as a holodeck. To be one of the main characters (s)he must be able to interact fully and retain memory, but a being capable of that would not be holographic.

My favourite Trek characters are Spock, Troi & Kira (but it took me a long time to decide!)

• **Pam Baddeley - Farnborough**

All comments come from N/L 33.

To Judith Taylor - I, too, have greatly reduced my meat consumption, but I am concerned about killing methods. The evidence is that any method is likely to cause some suffering as stunning doesn't always work, especially given the way abattoir staff are paid (on a piecework basis, so the more they kill the better paid they are). There is also suffering beforehand where animals smell the blood, have to be dragged into the slaughter area and generally experience stress and fear. Animals are often transported long distances and there is evidence of neglect, with animals driven around the UK or Europe with inadequate food and water and all packed like sardines. At present subsidies are not geared to encourage humane farmers but if they were and we could all get our meat from humane farmers, slaughter would still need to be completely reformed.

To Marwan Bukhari - Sorry, but I still can't accept a doctor in the Captain's chair, even though I'm a fan of the much maligned Bev. As someone with many years' experience as a manager, I feel qualified to say something. There is a world of difference between management - of people, of the complex issues involved in running a department, hospital or whatever - and command. Command is *not* the same as management. For a start, command would include years of training and experience in astro-navigation, tactics, battle strategy, diplomacy, weaponry, etc. The IDIC members with a naval background could, no doubt, expand on this, but, good as Bev looks and behaves in the chair, it really isn't credible drama. Now if we'd had a *command-trained* woman in that position, that would have been great.

To Janet Quarton - I don't think people who like all the series say they like all the *characters* equally too. I like all 3 series on their own merits, but I certainly have my likes and dislikes among the characters.

To Mervyn Leeder - I think you had better re-read my letter. I *know* Creation

Cons are a profit making concern. I was responding to the person who said that Creation couldn't hold an event here because they would not get enough people to make it worthwhile. The response to the Dr Who day overwhelmed the BBC, who had only expected devoted fans. Instead, the ordinary viewing public, especially families, *flocked* to it. I was pointing out that if Creation could get some of the more well known ST actors over here, and put a few ads on TV and radio, they could expect to attract a huge crowd.

Finally, re the lack of room to get in everyone's letters; there is a lot of white space in the letter column, with a line between every paragraph in an individual letter. As the paragraphs are indented anyway, cutting these blank lines should not make it less readable. This would allow people to have a longer letter, say 750 words maximum. *[Sheila - Actually, it would only give us a maximum of about 10 extra lines per page, or approximately 80 words, and a lot of pages would be less; and the paragraph breaks do help legibility when the print is so small.]*

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Tierra Venida, 3 Cromer Place, Ingol, Preston, Lancs**

Anyone wishing to write to me is welcome.

To Pamela McDowall - Oh, you met the steamer as well, did you? What baffles me is where the scrap metal came from for the Desaguadero bridge! (Who says Bolivians have no sense of ingenuity???)

To Gill Marks and others re degeneration of society. Having just narrowly escaped carbon dioxide poisoning because a kind group of local children took it into their heads to rip my gas fire flue apart and then stuff water bombs and wood down the pipe - a £200+ repair job - I think it's a case of "Oh, let's do this" - and to hell with the consequences.

To the tribble collector in Ellesmere Port. You've earned another one!

To Janet R Tribble - Yes, I know. The Bash Street Kids bashed up my gas fire flue!

Are astrogators large reptiles found wandering the galaxy???

To Tracy Saunders - I always open my performances with an Aymara song that says "Never forget our heritage or that of our grandfathers", as it means a lot to me. People have criticised me for promoting my view of life at the expense of theirs, so your comment was unjustified.

To your comment re the Aboriginal Americans (as they like to be called, Indian being an insult) I'd suggest you do the most obvious thing to help you in your search for their - and my - spirituality. Learn the music of the people, let it become part of you, and bury itself in your soul. Not just the ritual songs but those of every day. Learn the humour and how the people think. Then go back to your books and apply that knowledge; if possible, learn at least one Aboriginal American language (I speak one and understand bits of two more). Qala chuymani, imillwawa, San Juan juyphiru purkasma. Jachan jachani, qunqurkyuni, perdon mayiri jutkitasma. (A little bit of advice in Aymara - translation on request.)

Finally, I'll run a postal zine library - if I can be convinced that valuable copies won't 'vanish'.

• **K I Atherton - Ormskirk**

To Tracey Saunders - I think you just bit the one hand that might have fed you, regarding Native American culture. Your comment cut her very deeply. I know of no person prouder of her heritage than the Terrorist - after all, she did get her nickname by wearing her national costume in college on a festival day. She once put right the deputy head of music here at Edge Hill College when the latter tried to teach a Bolivian carol.

Catch her in mid-June and she'll usually be fasting and meditating before Intip Raymi (I think that's how it's spelt) which is the big annual festival - the Andean New Year as she described it. And at the beginning of August she'll usually make a 24-hour 400-mile round trip purely for the pleasure of singing in the Independencia

Boliviana Festival.

• **Patricia Doyle - Preston**

To Barry Spooner - You forgot two Kirks in What Are Little Girls Made Of and Whom Gods Destroy; two Spocks in Whom Gods Destroy and of course no fewer than three Datas in We'll Always Have Paris. Do you include A Fistful of Datas?

To Lynne Collinson. I seem to recall a zine at Lightspeed which had a story about two Rikers - one being a shapeshifter who'd decided that Riker represented the perfect Human, or something.

To Clare Finkel - In the aforementioned zine someone had the courage to tackle the problem of the Universal Translator by inventing a language the device had never met (and which defied normal translation!)

To Glyn Holland - Brent Spiner plays the pesky fan in the cinema lobby about ninety minutes into the film. Blink and you'll miss him. Wait until Woody Allen is asked the question about sex with animals, look to screen left and Brent's the fan who gets shepherded right through the scene. He's also on the bus right at the start.

To Dave Styles - Re the 'gap' under the Enterprise-D's fantail. This is purely shadow, as I found out when building the aforementioned model. Blame it on slightly off lighting.

To Ann Coulstock - Mmm. Only 100 videos? Two decent-sized shelves built into the wall might do it, or buy a bookcase from MFI.

Re 'forced' breeding of animals - It's nothing new. I'm sure the vegetarians out there would be up in arms if the supplies of milk, cheese and eggs dried up seasonally (EEC food mountain notwithstanding). As for wool - this is a by-product of the mutton industry.

To the disgruntled IDIC member - I know what you mean. Mind you, I did get a nice photo of Gates McFadden, properly autographed, at my second attempt. I'll be

writing again soon. Don't send IRCs - Paramount can certainly afford stamps!

To Raj Badhan re Spock's surname - according to DC Fontana (Vulcan's Glory) he is from the clan Talek-sen-Deen of the House of Surak.

• **Richard Hewitt - Ashstead, Surrey**

This is my first letter and I would like to say that reading the newsletters is an excellent substitute for painkillers!

To Keren Breen (P49) - Re the differences between the original theme and the DS9 music. They are similar but not the same. According to the piano scores, both in C major, the original theme goes G C F E C A D G, whereas the DS9 music goes G C E D F E F G.

Is it true that the holographic character in ST:Voy is going to be the Chief Medical Officer? If it is, I expect Gene will be turning in his orbital grave.

Can anyone tell me where I can get a copy of the song Star Trekkin?

• **Morag Phillips - Kilmarnock**

Well, with N/L 34 I entered my fourth year as a member of IDIC and all I can say is, keep up the great work. I've tried several different clubs but IDIC is the only one I've stuck with. Why? Several reasons. Excellent value for money, great articles and reviews, and the extensive, entertaining, occasionally aggravating but always illuminating Postbag.

Re Dax and the Worm (Rory Smith, P 29). For more information on the Trill and their relationship with the symbiont (worm), see episodes TNG The Host and DS9 Dax and Invasive Procedures. The Host, though, poses a question of its own; why does Odan have a 'forehead' and no freckles while Dax and subsequent Trill have freckles but no 'forehead'? My first theory was that Odan was not a true Trill, that the humanoid part was from a different species not really adapted to be a host, which would explain the 'bumpy' stomach - he had no abdominal cavity for the symbiont to fit into, and why he did not use the transporter, which would

try to separate out the 'foreign body' of the symbiont. But this theory went up in the air when I remembered that the female Trill in *The Host* also had a 'forehead'. Can anyone come up with a theory other than artistic licence?

Which 5 episodes would I use to try to convert someone (Jay Stevensen - P69)? The Devil in the Dark, Measure of a Man, Best of Both Worlds I & II, Duet and The Homecoming trilogy. Yes, I know that's actually 8, but I don't care! From this you've probably gathered that I am more of a 'new' Trekkie than an 'old' one, and this is true. I do adore the old series though and regard Kirk, Spock etc to be the progenitors of the characters whose adventures I prefer to follow. However, I'm a Trekkie, not a Next Gennie or a DSNiney, and this, to me, means that all the series have equal value. That I prefer the newer series does not detract from the old.

I loved the Star Trek Guide to Science last issue; well done to all involved.

To anyone out there who has yet to try a zine - Try a zine! If you like good fiction you won't find much in the 'professional' novelsto come close to most fan writers. On the subject of zines, I may be showing my ignorance, but what does A/U mean? *(Sheila - Alternate Universe - ie a story with some significant differences from what we are shown on TV.)*

• **Suzanne Perry - Canterbury**

To John Stuble - I joined last year and have taken your advice to put in my 'ha'penny's worth' and risk the committee's wrath! I am a fan but beg forgiveness if I sound naive at any stage. As stated at UFP '94 by a lovely Scottish lady I met - "I love all Star Trek". Yet, if forced to choose, I would have to pick TNG as my favourite simply because it was via TNG and a friend that I rediscovered Star Trek after only having vague childhood memories!

Re interaction between TNG and DS9 crews. Yes, please! I believe it was First Born where Quark and Riker had a scene via a viewscreen lasting a few minutes. Super - a

hint of a previous relationship with quite a bit of humour. The UFP audience buzzed when Armin's name appeared and enjoyed the verbal sparring as much as I did! Quark is extremely popular and there is a lot of room for development if the two crews do come together.

To John Sherratt - I agree that DS9 is getting better all the time. I admit earlier reservations about Sisko and Kira. No longer. Only Dax seems out of place at present but character development has always been Star Trek's greatest asset. I hope you enjoyed The Siege.

To Gordon Smyth - My favourite episodes are 1) The Offspring 2) Data's Day 3) The Measure of a Man 4) Charlie X 5) Rascals 6) The Enemy Within 7) Lower Decks 8) Clues 9) The Loss 10) The City on the Edge of Forever.

To Matthew Hemsley - What a challenge! One favourite character per series! Mine are McCoy, Data, Quark

To everyone - Gene Roddenberry created a wonderful vision. I am saving to go to Archon '94 because I have been to a couple of conventions and met super people from all walks of life, experienced real warmth and had an excellent time. I am frequently called 'crazy' because of my interest, but surely this hopeful, fulfilled, caring and just plain nice 'insanity' is the best kind?

• **Paul Jennings - Enfield**

I have just received and read my first newsletter and it is excellent - I can't wait for the next one. I've been a Trekker since I was young but only just found out about the large world of Trek in the last year or so - and how much being a Trekker costs! (cons, books, videos etc.) I like all the Trek series, so it costs me more than most. What I can't understand is why Trekkers squabble over which series is best. After all, they are all based on Gene Roddenberry's idea of the future and what it could be like; what we (I'm quite sure) would like it to be like. Anyway, he has done something no-one has ever done before, brought millions of people together through his idea. To all Trekkers: Live Long

and Prosper.

Can anyone tell me what happens when the DS9 lift is used? Is there a big hole left in the lift shaft? This could be very dangerous - someone could fall down it!

To Raj Badhan - Re UFP Logo. If you look in the Starfleet Technical Manual chapter 2 P 1 - 2, you will see the faces are for the United Federation of Planets and the leaves are for the United Nations.

To Barry Spooner - Yes, I've played the TNG pinball. Have you played the CT one? It is also very good.

• **Martin Stahl - Germany**

To the disgruntled IDIC member - My ST friends Carsten and Karin and I had some interesting experiences with autographs from the ST actors that might be interesting to you. When Karin wrote to the actors from Classic Trek via Lincoln Enterprises several months ago she got no reply from any one of them. We then found other addresses for DeForest Kelley and James Doohan and got back signed photos from both within a few weeks. When Carsten asked Armin Shimerman for one autograph he got five signed photos. I got an answer from Walter Koenig and DeForest Kelley within a few weeks (I wrote during the shooting of ST VI via Paramount address). Whoopi Goldberg was also very quick in replying with a signed photo and she even sent back the \$2 I sent her for postage. I got Jonathan Frakes' autograph a year after I wrote to him, and still wait for an answer from Patrick Stewart, Gates McFadden and Brent Spiner (now over a year). Karin got autographs from most of the TNG and DS9 actors within a few months. We got printed cards from Marina Sirtis, Michael Dorn, Terry Farrell and Leonard Nimoy. Some actors even sent a second autograph some months later although Karin didn't ask for one.

The cable channel SAT 1 is showing all TNG episodes including the whole 7th season in Germany until the end of July. We were surprised to hear this as it means that the last episodes are being shown in Germany 6 weeks after their US showing

while Farpoint was telecast 3 years after the USA. During the last years, SAT 1 showed the whole Classic series, TNG seasons 1 - 7 and the first season DS9, plus the movies 1 - 5 without a break (Classic and TNG each afternoon from Monday to Friday) The dubbing and the German titles are made by a since-1972-Trekker, but unfortunate it's no better than before. The German title of I, Borg is I Am Hugh, but the name 'Hugh' is never mentioned in the whole episode! Geordi called the Borg just 'You'. The titles seem to become worse. Trapped in a Temporary Time Fragment (Timescape); Welcome to Live After Death (Tapestry); Via Comet (Masks) ; The Case Utopia Planitia (Eye of the Beholder). The worst of them is Riker: 2 = ? (Second Chances). Riker wasn't split into two halves, he was doubled! Incidentally, the German title for The Enemy Within is Kirk: 2 = ? Coincidence? Lack of originality?

Today I watched Errand of Mercy. Can anyone tell me how this apparently primitive culture manages to open the door to their council chamber automatically and Kirk and Spock don't even notice it?

• **Liz Aris - Rosyth**

To Damian Griffiths - Your question about the holodeck is answered quite well in the TNG novel Reunions by Michael Jan Friedman; it starts about P56 where Worf is asked practically the same question by some visitors to the Enterprise.

To answer Raj Badhan's question about Spock's coffin soft-landing on Genesis, it wasn't Kirk who programmed the landing it was Saavik, although the soft landing wasn't quite what she had in mind (according to Vonda McIntyre's novelisation of The Search for Spock).

Can anybody explain Starfleet Academy to me? I have become really confused by the different ranks people appear to leave the Academy with in various novels. For instance Sulu left as a Lieutenant (Enterprise - The First Adventure) as did Saavik (ST:TWOK) yet Chekov was only an Ensign. My confusion grew after reading Traitor Winds (not as good as the previous

LA Graf novels, but that's only my opinion) as to where Command and Security School fits into it all.

Finally a big thanks to all at IDIC for everything - the newsletters, the fanzines and for somewhere to send used stamps!

• **Babs Grainger - Beckenham, Kent**

I just received the latest IDIC today, and I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. I used to be a member a few years back but dropped out because I personally got sick unto death of all the negative comments about Bill Shatner. It's nice to see that most folk seem to have remembered the true meaning of IDIC! I mean, Bill's not perfect, but then no-one is... we all have our faults (even Nimoy and Stewart) but Bill's virtues far outweigh anything negative you may care to throw his way. I admire the man for never sinking to the level of his detractors, and can only hope that others take a leaf out of his book before they choose to offer a derogatory opinion on Bill or anyone else. I'm all for healthy criticism, but some people take it to cruel and unnecessary extremes.

To Sue Smith - Yes, I saw that episode with Joan Collins... and all I can say is that I'm sure that Bill would cringe now at the thought of having to romance 'The Bitch' who has certainly grown older... but unfortunately without grace!

To Jill Clements - I too read that article in Starburst (you neglected to mention the full page pic of Bill on the cover!)

To all those of you who put down Bill as a director should see Tek War when it's shown on Sky. It's brilliant! (And with my hand on my heart I'd love it as much if Bill had nothing to do with it!)

I'll close this letter now. No doubt I'll write more in the future as I certainly do enjoy reading all your comments and observations on Trek, which has given us all a hope and vision for a better future - which is no small order for something that started out as a mere TV series. (Mere? Never!)

• **Roger Neal - Didcot**

Hello to all IDIC members. I've been a member for one year, probably the best year I've had in a long time! It's taken me about 10 years to find you, and that was because I purchased the wrong satellite guide!

Having read 6 IDIC magazines and several other sci-fi mags, I'd say IDIC comes out tops. The balance between reviews, letters, etc, is excellent.

I must confess that I am addicted to TNG. I watch it for several reasons - 1) it's Trek, 2) In its own way it's a classic, 3) I love sci-fi, 4) The stories (well, most of them) are very good, 5) The crew has the IT factor.

Next came DS9. This was a very bold move in my opinion. Had it flopped we could say goodbye to any future for Star Trek. The pilot film was good, if not a bit dragged out, but then the quality dropped. I'm not knocking the series, it's just that the normal magic wasn't there. Kira, Odo, Quark, Dax and Bashir are looking quite good, but to me the main let-down is Sisko. He looks so out of place dithering around in command. Has he got no go in him? It might be me, but he needs a revamp. Having seen 6 episodes of season 2, I think they are starting to get it together, but by season 3 they should have IT.

Being one of the few owners of a CDI system, I was very pleased with ST:TMP and ST:TUC came out on CD. I already have copies on video, but I had to get these. I am still dumbstruck by the quality and the sound. It leaves the VHS copies docked in space dock! I am now waiting for the other 4 movies to come out.

Did any of you go to Salute 94 in London? I spent most of the day watching and playing in their version of Wolf 359. The Borg ship was a good foot square and for Starfleet they used the micro machine models. The only ships that seemed to have any chance of not getting assimilated in the first round were the Klingon attack cruisers (they used their cloaking systems well). After 7 hours of destruction the game was stopped. Forty ships were destroyed and

they hadn't even done half damage to the Borg ship!

To Edward Woo - I will try to get to Wolf 359 in October, so I might see you there.

• **Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham**

To Michael Farquhar - P 30. My comment that the NG crew should go into the legal profession, now that the series is over, wasn't intended to sound like a knock at TNG. One of the reasons I love TNG so much is the way Picard and Co diplomatically work their way out of situations. The idea of "Ask questions first, shoot later".

To Gaile Wood (P31) - Are you telepathic? You summed up my thoughts about Kira exactly. I think Nana Visitor was an excellent choice for the role. On an interview she said that, when she first read the part, she passionately wanted to do it and was immediately offered the role after only two five-minute auditions!

Has anyone else seen Avery Brooks recently? He's shaved his head. I think he's going for the 'Picard look'!

To Peter Benei (P53) - The first time we get to see a Ferengi woman is in Rules of Acquisition. The reason why they haven't been shown before is that Women's Lib hasn't reached the Ferengi Alliance yet. Women aren't allowed off their home planet. They aren't allowed to learn to read or even wear clothing!

Re Worf's 'belt'. I'm not sure, but Klingons are meant to feel uncomfortable in their uniforms. This is supposed to keep a warrior alert. The sash that Worf wears is very heavy and uncomfortable and that's the reason why he wears it.

I loved watching the NG bloopers and now that the show is over, wouldn't it be great if Paramount put together bloopers for every season of NG. Does anyone know if Paramount has any plans to do this?

• **Judith A Hopkinson - Hull**

Re the video compilation on P 18. I

thought it was very cleverly and amusingly done. It is on the beginning of a lot of season 6 and all season 7 videos out so far. (Also DS9) The clips seem to be an updated version of a TOS compilation on some season 3 videos - advertising the Classic Trek movies.

To Nanaki Kaur - P 22. I too had been looking forward with great anticipation to seeing Attached. What a let down! I was amazed at Beverly backing out, especially in view of the rumoured Picard/Crusher marriage in All Good Things... I suppose we should have known they would continue the tease. I hope someone writes a book to fill things in, along the lines of Peter David's Imzadi.

To Rory Smith (P 29). I recommend the ST Encyclopedia - if you can get hold of one. It is full of drawings and answers to any questions Trekker could ask, including quadrants, bearings, etc. I am one of the lucky few to own a hard-backed copy - having had to extract it out of the hands of someone who was obviously determined to read it from end to end without buying it!

To Gaile Wood (P 31) I am sorry you didn't get to grips with Yar. I was very sad to see her go, especially as I felt she was helping to break down those male/female barriers. Her death did however have one big plus. Prior to this episode one always felt "Oh well, it must turn out OK because they have to be in it next week." Now I am never quite certain that they will.

To Peter Carmody (P 38) I agree that there seem to be a lot of tacky items for sale, or very expensive. People will have paid hundreds of pounds by the time they have bought all the chess pieces Franklin Mint are currently advertising. I would like to see some better quality goods, in a mid-price range, which are Enterprise related. For example, does anyone know if it is possible to buy a proper tri-dimensional chess set?

To Edward Woo (P 76) I enjoyed your star/planet article. I have also been looking into this subject and am in the middle of a season 6 planet investigation on the subject,

though the new ST Encyclopedia is quite helpful. Did you notice Orion behind Picard's nephew at the end of The Family?

• **Rory Smith - Glasbury, Hereford**

At first, when I heard about the killing of Kirk in the next movie, I couldn't believe it. It seemed completely the wrong thing to do and in some ways I still think it is. It finishes off any stories for some writers as Kirk can no longer be written in to a story which tells of the future. In other ways, despite being a Kirk fan, I can see it would be correct for his character to die as long as it is honourable. And Enterprise-D is destroyed! I hope the script writers come up with a good script which leaves Enterprise intact at the end of the film!

In N/L 34 someone said Spock had been buried on Romulus. Was he literally buried or what? What have I missed?
[Ed - See TNG episode Unification.]

To Damian Griffiths (P 33) Re holodeck. I suggest you read the NG Technical Manual where it's all explained. Most of the time when you are appearing to be walking about it's actually the simulated environment scrolling by. To make distances appear real an OHD emits an image of your surroundings and interferes with the usual working of your eye; the emitted image is reconstructed at the lens of your eye so it can control the image, making it appear that your friend is at the bottom of the hill when you are at the top.

To Peter Carmody - Where do you get your facts from? I wouldn't even know where to start to look to find the shape and size of our galaxy!

[Sheila - the magazine Focus, June issue, has a very good article on charting the galaxy by Nigel Henbest. The material in it probably comes from "The Guide to the Galaxy" by Henbest and Couper, CUP paperback, £17.95]

On P 58 someone commented on a FIB club. Can anyone give me any more details on it? [FEDERATION INFORMATION BUREAU (FIB) a Nationwide ST club with a few overseas members - 4 n/s per year. Membership £4.00 per year UK; £8.00 Europe;

£10.00 Australia/NZ; £12.00 USA/Canada - Payable to 'FIB'. Sample newsletter - 4 first class stamps. FIB, 61 The Scotchill, Coventry, West Midlands, CV6 2EW.]

Can anyone tell me exactly what is the 'Picard Manoeuvre'?

There's one more question that's been annoying me for a long time. What is the moving (flashing) light which can be seen at the bottom of the viewscreen when it's on, on the main bridge?

Re Remember Me. Did anyone notice the mistake? Geordi said that the warp bubble was contracting at a speed of 15m/sec but at one part near the end, Dr Crusher is seen rushing to the engine room, the 'border' to the universe chasing her. If it was travelling at 15m/sec, I doubt she could have out-raced it.

• **Gill Marsden - Washington**

To Glyn Holland - IDIC's guidelines say that I should keep this letter polite, so I'll just say that I don't find your husband's comments re female captains to be amusing, nor I suspect would the Captain of the USS Saratoga, Phillipa Le Vois, Rachel Garrett or Tryla Scott. If I had to suffer this, I'd just take down the Data poster. And before you ask, the man with whom I share my life (and tolerating a poster of someone else on his bedroom wall) didn't find them particularly chuckle-worthy either.

• **Martin Helsdon - Chelsmford**

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - There was a real submersible remote probe (quite small, red, and carried cameras) featured in the 'end clips' of an early seaQuest episode that displayed the NCC-1701 identity. The expert giving the 'final words' was standing in front obscuring the last few letters.

To Gaile Wood - I fear you are correct in assuming that DNA is a local phenomenon, unless Hoyle's theory about complex organic molecules and interstellar gas clouds is correct. We won't know until someone catches a piece of comet. Even if it isn't, the chances of life evolving to look like any of the more complex organisms on Earth

must be quite remote. Stephen Gould's *Wonderful Life* is a good book to read on the subject. It describes the evolutionary shoot-out in the PreCambrian and speculates on what life on Earth might have been like if things had turned out differently.

To James Keating - The outposts in The Neutral Zone were destroyed by the Borg, but the writers' strike prevented their earlier appearance. When they did appear I suspect that a different story concept was used to introduce them. It could be rationalised that the Borg have scout ships spying out the galaxy, only accelerating their plan to assimilate Earth when the accidental meeting with the Enterprise provided a good taste of Federation technology and genetic material. The Borg went straight to Earth because it is the political heart of the Federation. Borg strategies seem to be subtle or brutally direct.

To Tracy Saunders - Most American Indian cultures are/were very spiritual, but the form that religious nature took wasn't always pleasant. To balance the ways of the Pueblo Indians and the peoples of the Pacific coast there were the blood sacrifices of the Aztecs and Maya (performed for the best of motives - the continuation of this Sun), the Death Cults of the Great Lakes and 'sick' cultures like the Comanche (their untypical beliefs such as despising the old were induced by the destruction wrought by the whites). There were dozens of different cultural groups. If you remove the nasty aspects of American Indian life (every culture has them, the Aztecs swapped their sacrifices for the pleasantries of the Europeans' Inquisition) then yes, the veneration of nature and the cycles of life are deeply satisfying. There was a dark side.

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Nanaki Kaur - I can't say I don't like Sisko, because there doesn't seem to be much of a character to dislike. After the big build up in Emissary, Sisko has become more and more one of the extras in DS9.

To Joan Verba - Re SF v ST. Personally I cannot say that I am a 'science fiction' fan as I find the genre far too wide. For every science fiction book that I enjoy I find that

there are a dozen which I consider awful. It's the same with TV series. I like Blakes 7 and Automan, but can't stand Quantum Leap or Buck Rogers. However, as yet I can't find fault with Trek!

To Rory Smith - Re model shops. Have you tried Comet Miniatures in Battersea? It's got everything in SF down to Space 1999 uniforms.

To Alan Stephens - May I make a request of you? I said *my* last word on the subject of graphic novels in December 1993. Could you please check exactly who it is that has upset you? I think you will find that your two most recent comments shouldn't have been directed at me at all.

Incidentally, I find it a good idea to draft a letter, think about it for a few days, then amend it as necessary before posting. A letter written on the spur of the moment rarely conveys what you intend it to. One thing I have noticed over the couple of years that I have been with IDIC is that few people who receive rude replies to their letters ever write again. I find that very sad.

• **Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent**

I ordered the ST Encyclopedia from the OUKFC and received it, not 'two weeks prior to release' but two weeks after I saw it in a shop in Sheffield *cheaper* than their 'special offer'.

Added to that, in Andromeda Bookshop's latest catalogue I read the following about the Encyclopedia - "On checking his finished copy, Michael Okuda discovered that the 40 pages of errors he'd sent in at proof stage hadn't been done! The British edition (now promised for the end of May) will have the corrections, we understand."

Obviously all the copies sold at the moment are faulty! I think we all should be entitled to a free exchange to get the corrected version, and because Pocket Books is to blame, they should refund the costs the shops have.

To John Sherratt and 'Disgruntled IDIC

member' - I wrote to all TNG, and later DS9 actors, asking them for autographs. I have been doing this for years so have a bit of experience. Sometimes it takes more than a year until you get an autograph! Some react fast, with some it takes time and some do not answer at all. It also pays off to try again in a year or so. For example I got an autographed photo from Brent Spiner and LeVar Burton very recently, after my third try. I thought, perhaps, with the end of the series, the actors have a bit more time, and fortunately I was lucky. Only Marina Sirtis didn't send me anything. Also, I 'only' got a printed signature on Michael Dorn's photo and with Terry Farrel it was the same, but although I was a bit disappointed, it was nice of them to answer at all and I appreciate the nice photos. Remember, the actors don't have to send you autographed photos. They are extremely busy and if they still find the time to do it, I think we should thank them and appreciate it. I always send two IRCs and an addressed envelope and when I get an autographed photo I usually send them a thank you card.

I like Babylon 5 as much as Trek; the address to let them know you like it is Babylon 5, Warner Bros, Television Bldg 137, 300 S Television Plaza, Burbank, CA 91505, USA. To write to Straczynski, writers and stars, the address is Babylon Productions, 8615 Tamarack Ave, Sun Valley, CA 91352, USA.

To Bjo Trimble - I enjoyed my first issue of Space Time Continuum very much and found the above info very useful. I'm looking forward to the next issue.

To Jacqueline Y Comben - I definitely agree with your article. I felt the same way. I was also annoyed when I watched Journey's End; how can Starfleet force the entire population of a planet to evacuate because of political reasons! I think Wesley did the right thing to prevent it - and only after that we learn that the simple solution was for the Indians to leave Starfleet! Why did nobody bother to tell them that from the beginning? Why did the Federation completely ignore the occupation of Bajor?

• Keith Morton - Switzerland

Are there any other Swiss resident members out there?

Can anyone tell me why Worf is still on the Enterprise? With his father's honour now restored and his younger brother being on the ruling council, surely he could have just about any command he wanted in the Klingon Empire. Even Gowron in Rightful Heir pleaded for his support as he was an important influence, and it was Worf who came up with solution of installing Kahless as Emperor. Surely Worf would not be so unambitious as to remain a lowly lieutenant in Starfleet, even if he is pining after Deanna.

To John Snelling - (P 50). Re Dark Mirror. Your brief description sounded very similar to DC Comics Mirror Universe saga, which used original Trek characters following on from ST3. I've also come across a fun TNG Mirror story called Errand of Malice (Final Frontier No 4 Amiga computer zine) which has Data as the security monitoring android, Picard inheriting the tantalus field, Geordi having been killed by the Pakleds being replaced by O'Brien for whom Riker arranged an 'accident' so O'Brien can be given a visor.

To Rory Smith - (P 29) Re replicators. Some monetary unit is still used in the 24th century (Quark always seems to require payment) but I imagine it is all automated, therefore when you replicate something the computer would deduct your account according to the energy used. If you replicated gold pressed latinum it would be like making a cash withdrawal from a bank machine. On Starships I think all essential items (like food and drink) would be a perk of the service so money would not normally be needed until the crew went on shore leave. To Raj Badhan (P 53) I think Kirk was referring to Earth notes and coins - alternatively it could have been the easiest way of getting out of paying the bill!

To Jill Clements - (P 29) Re androids. Interesting idea, linking Flint and Soong. However, Roger Corby used an alien machine which required a Human pattern to be copied, therefore I would not class them as

true independent beings, and they might have been outlawed by the Federation on ethical grounds. Mudd's androids from original series might have been damaged beyond possible repair by Kirk and Co's display of illogic, with the remaining Stella series being very basic models programmed for very few tasks and with no high level functions.

To Marion van der Voort - (P 45) Re Encyclopedia misprints. I don't suppose you know what entries on which particular 30 pages had the serious errors?

• **David Horman - St Peter, Jersey**

To Dave Styles - According to the Tech Manual (if I remember rightly), the slit is the main secondary hull tractor beam emitter. Perhaps the reason for its disappearances is that it can slide open or closed to protect any sensitive machinery inside.

To Jennifer Blanchard - Re the shape of the universe. I'm not quite sure where you got the idea of an inverted hypersphere from. For a start, why should it be "inverted"? And how do you invert a four dimensional shape? If we can, for a moment, stick to three dimensions, and go back to the point of the Big Bang, we theoretically start with a singularity which expands in ALL directions at the same speed - that of light. This would result in a normal spherical shape. The hypersphere idea, however, sounds very interesting, and goes some way to explaining the Big Crunch theory from the Red Dwarf episode Backwards. One last thing - galaxies would be scattered inside the sphere, not on the inside surface - this would result in a two dimensional universe mapped on to a three dimensional shape. If anyone wants to discuss this further outside the Newsletter, my address is Devanha, Beaumont Hill, St Peter, Jersey, CI, JE3 7BR.

To Rory Smith - Re communication with whales. Perhaps Starfleet uses Vulcans or Betazoids to communicate with the whales. We already know that even half-Vulcans can do this from ST IV. Though vocal "whale talk" may be too complex to decipher, images through telepathy would be an almost universal form of communication -

or maybe in the 70 odd years since ST IV, Starfleet has managed to learn "whale talk" from Gracie and George. Or maybe they learned English - Darwin's relatives?

To Edwin Yau - I, too, love Babylon 5, but why did they have to call the communications system "Babcom"? Aside from that, does anyone know of any B5 fan clubs? And what did you think of Infection?

To Matthew Hemsley - Re fave characters: Spock, Data/Worf, Quark/Garek. I think I'd be more interested in people's least favourite characters/stories. Mine must be Uhura, Dr Pulaski & Jake/Dax, and my worst stories are The One with the Lizard in the Rubber Suit (Gorn), Shades of Gray (puh-leease! What an insult), & Vortex. Oh, yeah, is there anyone else whose favourite TNG is Conspiracy? I seem to be in a minority - they could have so easily have done a follow-up story.

• **Gloria Fry - Glasgow**

Like many I too have serious misgivings about this new movie. No Spock! Kirk killed! Only Kirk, Scotty and Chekov of the original crew in it at all! It sounds like they are determined to totally destroy original Star Trek. They have certainly tried, what with Sarek's long term feud with Spock, which surely is ridiculous after the events of 'Journey to Babel', not to mention the movies. Plus his horrible death in 'Unification' - although Mark Lenard acted it brilliantly. The treatment of the Spock character in that same episode left much to be desired. What a wasted opportunity. Scotty was treated better in his TNG episode but I found it a trifle condescending at times. Now Kor, Koloth and Kang have TNG Klingon make-up in their DS9 episode, disregarding their appearances in the original. There is also the small problem of how they would be alive in the 24th century unless it is a Time Travel tale. I was under the assumption that Klingons were shorter lived than Humans anyway! In the end it will be the fans who will keep the integrity of Star Trek's characters alive as they did from the very beginning. As long as we continue to write about them and want to read about them, they will never die.

I was fascinated by an ST animation 'Practical Joker' which I saw for the first time recently. The idea of the holodeck on the original ship was there in this animation made in 1974! Many of these animations would have been superb live actor episodes. I also enjoyed 'Planet Earth'. This would have made a good series. It was very like Trek in style.

To Neil Barret - I have noted Diane Carey's widely differing work. It must be partly due to her collaborator, who appears to have been involved more with "Best Destiny." The idea of this unlikeable brat Jimmy Kirk who has neglected his studies and is always in trouble etc. being able to even make the grades for the Academy, and eventually become the youngest captain in the fleet doesn't ring true. The youngsters who do make the Academy would be the cream of the crop, the ones who were willing to work hard to become future Starfleet officers.

To Sue Smith - Re Joan Collins on Clive James. She was a little derisory but I've heard her talking about 'City' at other times where she has been very complimentary. I think it was just the nature of the Clive James show. He, of course, has always been a Trek fan.

• **Gerry Taylor - Oldham, Lancs**

I have been an SF fan for over 35 years (giving away age there!), and, apart from my short break from fandom (20 years in the military), have always taken an active part, wherever I could. However, in all those years, I don't think I have come across such a close knit group as this community. I would just like to say to all my new friends out there in fandom, that I am very impressed with the way new people are taken to heart, either at clubs or conventions.

As a result of my experiences, I would like to reassure P Mortimer that not all cons are like T'Kon. At your next con, look me up, and I will hand you 100 new friends on a plate, just for the sake of an introduction. That's what Trek fans are like. They are good people. Don't write us off because of a bad experience.

To Peter Carmody - I read your article on Starfleet as a Military Organisation with some interest and a little puzzlement. I tell you from experience that any military Cohort who were taken by surprise as often as Picard and Co. are would be peeling spuds at basic training camp so fast their proverbial wouldn't touch the astroturf.

Also, the object of an Army is not to invade neighbours and take over new territories. It is, with the exception of a few tinpot tyrants, diametrically opposite to that. It is, in fact, to prevent other people doing such a thing to you.

To Gaile Wood - hello Gaile. See! I finally wrote in. I think you and I are likely to make ourselves very unpopular with our view of Tasha Yar. I always thought she was wet anyway, and as a Security Officer, she leaves much to be desired. If she came up against any real female soldiers, she would be eaten alive. (And you know exactly who I mean, don't you?).

However, in the final analysis, this is a work of fiction, and I suppose these characters have to be colourful. I have been accused before of taking things too seriously, when it comes to characterisation, hence the comments after my character assassination of Kirk as a Captain in the debate at Warp One. (Yes, I'm still trying to live that one down. You wouldn't believe how often people say to me, O! That was you, was it?)

• **Keefy, 57 Hearsall Lane, Earlsdon, Coventry, CV5 6HF.**

Just received my first newsletter, and thought I would congratulate everyone involved for such an excellent publication. I also thought I'd say 'hi' to everyone. It seems I have been missing out for some time and have quite a bit of catching up to do. So if anyone feels like writing to a fairly isolated and uninformed bloke like me please do.

I noticed a few people in the newsletter were commenting on which incarnation of Trek that they thought were the best, so I thought I'd throw my oar in. I like all three, but for different reasons. I have to admit though that DS9 took the most getting used

to. I thought the pilot was terrible, but gradually it's grown on me quite a bit. My favourite though is TNG, so here are my top five TNG: 1)The Defector, 2)Face of the Enemy, 3)Lessons, 4)Dark Page, 5)Tapestry. This will probably change by next week when I have bought a couple more episodes.

To Matthew Hemsley (N/L 34 p51)- My favourite characters are: OS - Bones, TNG - Worf and DS9 - Quark. You're right, it was difficult!.

To Peter Benei (N/L 34 p53 question 4) - I think the reason we never see any Ferengi women is probably due to the Ferengi attitude towards them. As far as I can make out, they are classed as inferior, and I think that even for them to wear clothing is frowned upon? (by the Ferengi Male that is!!). I can only presume that filming a naked Ferengi female would have been pointless because the censors would have edited it out anyway. (Question 7)- I think you'll find that surprise is more a reaction than an emotion. If I'm wrong on any of the above someone correct me please.

To Ann Coulstock (N/L 34 p32) - If you are having trouble finding space for your videos, I have a rather large space in my video cabinet which could be utilised to great effect.

To Everyone - Is it just me, or did William Shatner look really ill during that interview on This Morning?.

To Everyone - In TNG Conspiracy, the mother creature sent out a homing signal. As of yet, I've seen no other mention of the creatures. I've not seen all episodes yet, so can anyone tell me whether they have reappeared at a later date, or can I presume that the signal never got through?

• **Matthew Christie (Artist Extraordinaire!)**

To Sue Smith (N/L 34, p43) - Regarding the Joan Collins interview, I got the impression that the questions and answers were prepared well in advance. This allowed Ms Collins to think up the 'wittiest', ie. derogatory remarks suitable for the vast majority who regard Trek as kids' stuff. Even

if they weren't prepared she would still have gone for the same impact.

Why do people insist on jumping on the 'slag-Shatner-band-wagon'? Would somebody please tell me what he's done that's so bad? Fellow actors may regard him as an egotist, which he acknowledges and accepts and has tried to rectify. But how does that affect the fans? Would you turn your back on a friend for years on end if they acted superior towards you? Of course not, you would let them know what they've done and sort out any problems between you. So why turn your backs on Bill, particularly if he has done nothing to you personally, except bring you lots of happiness through his work!? Since I'm relatively new to fandom (for 2 years now), did I miss something he did in the past or has he had to bear the scorn of fans all this time even though he's done nothing to hurt them? Enlighten me!

To anyone who went to the trouble of finding out what aircraft Michael Dorn owns - thank you! However, I came across it by luck after I sent the letter! In case anyone is interested, it's not a CASA jet as I thought, but a Lockheed T-33 Thunderbird (CT-133 Silver Star if you live in Canada), the type once used by the US Air Force aerobatic display team!

Regarding Voyager, I would consider it more in line with Trek ideology than DS9. 'To boldly go home...' is better than 'To boldly sit still...!' My only serious concern is the holographic character which not only rips off Red Dwarf but seriously stretches the boundaries of believability. Can they really expect us to accept that a person's intelligence, personality, experiences and 'soul' (if you believe that we are greater than the sum of our parts) can be stored as simply as a computer program? Does this mean that anyone approaching death can head down to their local transporter room, cause an accident, get put on file and wait for a way to be 're-incarnated'?

• **Patrick Ceuppens, Maanstraat 27, B-2500 Lier, Belgium.**

To John Sherratt (NL34 p26) and the

"disgruntled member" (NL34 p41) - I requested autographs from the entire TNG-cast and some CT-actors. I got a response from : Marina Sirtis (signed photo with personal letter !), LeVar Burton (photo plus a note), Gates McFadden, Whoopi Goldberg, Majel Barrett (dedicated to me), Jimmy Doohan and Bill Shatner. None of the others have responded so far, and it's been almost a year ! The signatures that did arrive took between 3 weeks and 5 months ; some were sent to Paramount, others to personal addresses.

A few questions (to everyone) :

- How fast is full impulse speed? Some sources say 0.92c, others 0.5c, and yet others 0.25c (c=lightspeed).

- Don't you think Data acts a bit 'out of character' in Gambit part 2? For example the scene with Worf when Data is acting captain, and the very last scene (which was meant as a joke though). It wasn't like Data.

- Is there a maximum number of participants on the holodeck? Although the holodeck may seem as large as an entire world, and participants may seem far away from each other, everyone actually occupies a certain place ON the holodeck, so the space IS limited !

To Peter Benei (NL34 p53) - By removing the devices from the dead Borg, they are disconnected from the collective and as a result they immediately self-destruct so that nothing can be recovered from them. More about this in the TNG-novel "Vendetta" by Peter David.

For the interested : My favourite characters are : Bones (CT), Troi (TNG), and Quark (DS9). I'm not sure about DS9 because I haven't seen much of it. My favourite TNG episodes are (in no particular order) : Hollow Pursuits, The Nth Degree, Cause & Effect, Gambit, Frame of Mind, Face of the Enemy, Elementary Dear Data, Ship in a Bottle, The Best of Both Worlds, Transfigurations.

To Roger Buck's "My kind of Trek" (NL34 p72) - Unlike you, I think Brannon Braga has written some of TNG's best episodes ! Tastes differ, it seems. I especially like his episodes, because they usually tease

the mind. Frame of Mind, Cause & Effect and Phantasms are Trek at its best !

To Mike Hazlewood (NL34 p42) - I think Data can be replicated. Or would he have some parts (perhaps his positronic brain) that cannot be replicated? As you may know, objects that are too large cannot be replicated because the amount of energy involved would be enormous, but I don't think Data falls into that category. There is something else though. Since Data is a sentient lifeform, only he could give permission to be replicated. Remember Riker, Dr Pulaski and Geordi in "Up the Long Ladder"? They were not so eager to be cloned

• Stephen Daniels Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

I don't know about any other IDIC members, but I felt quite disgusted when I read that the big wigs at Paramount seemed to say "... it's been nice folks, but I must go now I've got work to do on Voyager," to the TNG cast after the last episode was filmed. Typical.

Now that Babylon 5 is on the scene, I seem to be very paternal with regard to DS9 (a show I didn't much care for to begin with). I think it's when one programme steps on another's toes that makes my hackles rise. I felt like that when DS9 came along, and will probably feel the same when ST:VOY hits the screens too.

Dr. Crusher doesn't seem like a very nice person. She spends all her working day with Nurse Ogawa, and calls her by her first name (Alyssa), yet she never seems to spend any of her spare time with her. She is never mentioned outside the sickbay. This is the doctor's closest working colleague yet Beverly seems to have no time for her. The only time they have ever been seen to have any close dialogue was in 'Imaginary Friend' when she was talking about some fella she fancied, and that conversation didn't last long. Opinions, anyone?

To Rory Smith (N/L 34 p29) At last I have found it. Thank you. I wonder why we never see our heroes talking to their cetacean colleagues, after all they talk to the dolphin in

seaQuest.

To Ann Coulstock (N/L 34 p32) I've only seen the first eight episodes of season seven so far (I can't afford cassette 81 yet), but I only really enjoyed 4 of them. Descent pt.2, Gambits 1&2, and Attached (which I only just enjoyed). The rest I found pretty corny, esp. Dark Page, whose story I'm sure was used in Neighbours a while ago!

• **Simon J. Growcott, 127 Manorway, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 6JS**

Hello fellow IDIC members!

I am renewing my membership after 1 year (very interesting, good value for money, etc, etc, I'm sure you've heard it all before) anyway, the hard work put in by J, S and V (and whoever else) is greatly appreciated. This is also my 1st letter, mainly because I've never plucked up the courage before, but now I'm totally hooked (on DS9, as well as TNG), I figured, in for a penny in for a pound.

Since my dramatic conversion (I only started watching from last year, since I got Sky), I have branched out into getting merchandise. The 'official' merchandise leaflet came through the door from Sky, so I sent off for a few items.

I am pleased with the T-shirt, despite Sky sticking their logo on the sleeve, which I thought was a bit cheap. I also got a communicator, and have not yet received a tricorder, which I ordered 2 MONTHS ago, and had one letter apologising for the delay.

Although I can't comment on the tricorder, I can honestly say that the communicator redefines the word 'tacky'. It has a rather sad plastic covering, and makes the most pathetic squeak when the button is pressed, and it's made in China. To say I was disappointed was an understatement - I felt cheated, and above all, angry. I was, frankly, embarrassed to own it, and I certainly could not wear it in public. I've put it down to experience, but I feel that I shouldn't have to. I would like to advise readers to have nothing to do with 'official' merchandise from

Paramount, although I don't know where else to get such items.

While I'm on the subject of Paramount, I think their endorsement of such tack symbolises their philosophy, which is to make as much money out of Star Trek, and its adoring public, but not consider the benefit (or otherwise) of the horse it is flogging. It seems to me that their ideals go against moral decency, and I will write to Paramount telling them so.

Re : Pirate videos - what are these? Technically, these are videos with copyright material on them, which has been recorded without permission. This description would include all videos made for personal use. Does anyone know the legal position on this? Every household in the country must have pirate videos. Can they be arrested? This seems impractical, since everyone would have to be arrested, despite blatantly breaking the law. Also, a tip to those who do record Trek - if you pause the video when the cast stuff and adverts come on, each episode takes up about 45 mins. This means that 6 episodes can be recorded on a 4hr tape, saving money and space.

Also, can anyone recommend a con in my area, especially for a first-time attendee as I would be. I reckon cons should hold official first timers parties, in order to get the shy ones (like me, sob, sob) involved. This would make good business sense, since someone who has been made welcome and involved in things, is much more likely to go again.

I've started a small group in my area, of which I am currently the sole member! If you live in the area (or for that matter, if you don't) then write, I will accept conversation on anything from Trek to politics, basically anything. I'm always keen to make new friends, and I feel I know some of you from the letters I've read, and actually look out for letters by certain people!

• **Judith Taylor - Leyland (A.K.A the temple of doom to my friends)**

HELLO, yes I'm back for another subscription, so start the screaming now. By

the time this comes out Contagion will be over so hello to any IDIC members I will meet. To anyone who's been on the new Alton Towers ride the Nemesis do you agree with me that it looks like a new breed of ceti eel?

To Glyn Holland - Tell your husband that the reason there are few female Starship captains is because they're too good for that post and so become Admirals instead. (The tongue is extremely in cheek for any male egos this comment may have dented)

To everyone - Did anyone see the Cadfael with Lord Picard as the bad guy?

To Rory Smith - I too am strongly against battery farming. We use a family butchers who have a farm. All the animals are free range. I would also be sad to deprive them of our custom because of other butchers' taste in where they get their meat. (Sorry to any animal rights people but I like my meat. I have prepared meat by doing the whole bit i.e skinning gutting and head and feeting; the only thing I am unable to do is kill the animal. It is against my nature).

To all Denise Crosby fans, I apologise for my comments in the last IDIC. They were a stab at the writers, who like to bring back characters after they are dead time and again, not a stab at the actress herself.

To Stephen Daniels - Babylon 5 was written and filmed way before DS9 so to anyone who says it's a Trek rip off think again. BIG HINT to anyone who hasn't seen it, watch Babylon 5, it's brilliant. At least they're not afraid to show a prominent member of the cast in bed with his girl friend (don't get excited it's only the two sitting up in bed, the scene you always see on American TV).

To Tracy Saunders - Taruka Quauhtezcatl is not Indian she is Bolivian. Also even the Indians (or aborigines as they like to be known as a collective) dabbled in a little forced breeding; how do you think they got their ponies outside mustanging? Also if we didn't eat meat half the cow and sheep

population would have to be slaughtered to make way for more arable farming which would kill off yet more valuable hedgerows and bring more pesticides and liquid nitrates into the soil, so effecting the environment even more. Also I wonder how many times you feed your pets tinned pet food? Where does that meat come from.

Well I would like to finish in Terry Pratchett's immortal words:

"Space, the final frontier, well I wouldn't say final but as frontiers go it's pretty penultimate."

• Shaun Brannigan - 7 Talbot Drive, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8HG

It always fascinates me how the influence of Star Trek has ingrained itself into our society. It is very rare to find an Anglo-Saxon who cannot repeat the most famous split infinitive ever - or will not repeat the most famous misquote ever when faced with a Trek fan - "Beam me up, Scotty". Recently I had the privilege of witnessing a presentation by an unreserved Trek Fan. It was at the Boots Retail Division Conference where the audience was 50 + of the most senior managers in the Division. Not exactly the forum where I would expect my favourite program to be discussed.

Graham Whitehead, of British Telecom's Research Establishment at Martlesham Heath, started his presentation on the technology of tomorrow with a slide of the Enterprise NCC-1701A. The Post Bag is not the forum to repeat the contents of Graham's presentation, but if any of you ever get the chance to listen to Graham talk then leap at it. To any Con organisers out there, this is a man who would be a sure fire hit on any panel - if you can get hold of him.

To all correspondents on the matter of DS9, what's lacking? For me all of the best episodes revolve around Odo, Quark, and Kira. These do not directly involve the Star Fleet contingent. Star Fleet has always been the backbone of TOC and TNG. Can you imagine an episode purely involving Klingons and/or Romulans etc. This in no way devalues the quality of these episodes -

quite the converse - the non-Starfleet character based plots are a lot better than the Starfleet based plots. Is this the crux of the matter?

To Chris Boyce - I have been toying with the idea of getting a modem for some time now. Your excellent article on "Trek Surfing" tipped the balance for me. It is now on order. I would very much appreciate your help on how to access which networks and the best BBs to address (not so much on which button to press but how to go about subscribing). If you can help me, please write to me at the above address. As a footnote to Chris' article the presentation by Graham Whitehead underlines how networked computers are creating a Global Village.

To Rory Smith - in "The Neutral Zone" Picard states that the need for material things has gone. This suggests that economics - as we currently understand it - is redundant. In this context there is no need for credits or other currency, so crew members have no need to replicate credits. This does raise the awkward question as to what do the crew gamble with during their poker games? I suggest that the accumulation of chips is for pride not for material gain. I would welcome any other hypotheses. As for no need for mining etc (as replicators can create everything); replicators need energy. As man can turn matter into energy (eg Coal into Electricity), replicators, turn energy into matter. That energy needs to come from matter (eg. Dilithium Crystals) so energy creating ores need to be mined. As for precious metals you have an interesting point. Perhaps the computer is programmed to not replicate certain specified products which have no utility creating attributes, as to do so would be a waste of limited energy. The economic argument would be that it would cost more in terms of dilithium crystals to replicate a bar of latinum than that bar of latinum is actually worth.

To Mike Hazelwood re: replicating Data. A very interesting idea. You acknowledge that Humans are too complex. Is Data not complex also? It only takes one slight element out of place and your creation

is nothing more than an ornament. The replicators' imperfections are well noted. After all can a machine which fails to replicate the effects of alcohol in alcoholic drinks really be able to replicate an android?

• Sue Richardson - Crawley, W Sussex

Hi, everyone! It's been a while since I last wrote - N/L 17, I think. I haven't warped out, I've been reading each and every newsletter with interest. In fact, I've been re-reading all my N/Ls from No. 13 onwards, and it's been 'fascinating' (sorry!) to rediscover people's thoughts and concerns on ST VI:TUC and DS9 before we all had the chance to see them.

IDIC N/Ls just keep on getting better and better, which pleases me as I've not renewed my membership to another fan club (no names, no pack drill) whose N/Ls were just plain rubbish and filled with nonsense - completely unlike good old IDIC whose N/Ls I look forward to and avidly read.

All this waffling has a purpose. I'm off to San Francisco at the end of the year and through the postbag would like to ask if there are any decent science fiction shops, or anywhere else in San Francisco, where I can get Trek stuff. Any input would be gratefully received.

A query - has anyone else noticed that when Spock melds with V'Ger in TMP, 'faces' seem to flash through the meld? It's too fast for me to be certain of this, but I'm sure some of the 'faces' are Kirk, T'Pol, or Ilia. What do others think?

I'd like to end by saying thanks for a great club to Janet, Sheila and Valerie, and to Helen White whose con reports are a real laugh. As a shift worker I find it very difficult to get the time off work to go to conventions; reading Helen's reports are the next best thing.

I have heard a rumour that there is to be a con at a Gatwick hotel next year. Has anyone else heard this, or is it just wishful thinking on my part as I work (rest and play) at the dreaded Gatwick airport?

• **Marysia Kolodziej - Troon**

To Sheila Clark - Surely a planet with very low gravity, low enough to be practically zero, would be very small and not have the strength to hold any water on its surface or indeed much of an atmosphere. I can't imagine such a place holding any intelligent life at all. A few bacteria, etc, maybe, but nothing larger.

To Jason Wells - They don't have to go where no man has gone before 'cause they're already there. Besides, since when did Captain Picard go where no-one had gone before? He seems to spend most of his time in charted space. I'm really looking forward to Voyager. As far as I'm concerned, any new Trek is a good thing.

To Rory Smith - Re replicators. Maybe they have a stock of elements that the replicator uses to produce things and these elements have to be got from somewhere. The elements in rare metals and fuels etc wouldn't be easily available so they'd still have to mine them.

To Gaile Wood - DNA is made of basic elements all of which are available throughout the universe. All it takes is a mix of these elements and a few bolts of lightning to start the formation of short DNA type molecules and proteins. I find it highly unlikely that DNA is purely Terran. But just 'cause DNA is widespread doesn't mean aliens will look like us, they could still look like just about anything depending on their environment and the order of the amino acids on their DNA.

How dare the BBC start showing TNG then just stop after only 9 episodes and leave us hanging till September! At least I still have Babylon 5, especially as Quantum Leap is about to stop too. Does anyone know if that's the last series or is there another to go?

To Tracy Saunders - I would like to point out that most indigenous peoples don't know much more about the balance of nature than we do. Deforestation and mass extinction weren't invented in the past couple of hundred years. People have been

chopping down trees, killing large animal species and creating deserts for thousands of years.

To Brenda Allen - Re fattening food. Probably the computer would inform Medical if a crewman was ordering large amounts of fattening food.

To Raj Badhan - In the 23rd century money is fully computerised in Starfleet - there is no hard currency. We are actually closer to this today than most people realise. The amount of actual money, notes and coins, that exists in Britain is peanuts to the amount floating around computers in banks, pensions, stock exchanges, etc.

I loved the ST Guide to Science. Brilliant.

• **Dave Smith - Northampton**

To Rory Smith - P29 - Starfleet could not communicate with the whales in ST IV but since the galaxy class starships were built about 79 years have gone by, so it's possible that in the interim the universal translator has been upgraded to include the ability to converse with the cetacean life forms.

To Jason Wells - P28 - Give the new series a break. No-one has yet seen anything of ST:Voyager so let's wait before we condemn it out of hand. For all we know it might well fit in with Roddenberry's view of the future; after all, not all Starfleet officers in the original series were whiter than white, were they? Eg Captain Merik (Bread and Circuses), John Gill (Patterns of Force) etc.

To Gaile Wood - P31) - I agree with you about Tasha. I think had she been given a chance to expand as a character then it could have been very different. What about Tasha's sister Ishara making a return visit to the Enterprise (in the film) and coming face to face with her niece Sela? That would be an interesting meeting! Re Kira, she is by far the most forceful female in the Star Trek universe to date and Nana Visitor must be given full marks for her portrayal, but there are times when I think the writers dwell too much on her Bajoran aggressiveness and not enough

on the softer side of her nature, to the detriment of the character.

Re TNG ending - I much prefer TNG over OT or DS9 and although I will miss watching TNG I will look forward to the movie and buying it when it's released on video. As the original Trek improved during the movie era so will TNG; SFX and sets will gain from more money being spent on them and I hope characters will continue to evolve and mature. I for one am looking forward to seeing the Enterprise-D on the big screen.

To Matthew Hemsley - P51 - My choice of favourite characters are Kirk, Deanna Troi and Kira.

• Tracy Saunders - Westcliff on Sea

To Barry Spooner - Seeing that Westcliff is a part of Southend, I have had a go on the pinball machine. Like you, I find it entertaining! (That is, when I can get on it, of course!)

To Pamela McDowall - I hope you continue having a great time at cons. I am only 33, but I don't want to stop living when I get to 50. I just cannot understand what people have got against age.

Thank you to those people who have corrected me on the subject of Troi and telepathy. I have now been enlightened, with your help.

To Rory Smith - How can you even think of going back to eating meat after being vegetarian, if the battery farms are demolished? I would like to know out of curiosity.

To Jill Clements - I am pleased that you are feeling okay. Being that you are, as you say, 'converted', you will now understand how important *free will* is to spiritualists' belief. I say 'belief' because as you know we are not a religion.

To Sacha J Cowan - I am vegetarian, and yes I do eat dairy products. As I am a believer in free will, I am responsible for my own actions. I eat free range eggs, I drink

milk, occasionally butter or margarine and vegetarian cheese. It is vegans who do not eat dairy products.

• Vicky Roberts - Formby, Liverpool

To Philip Morley - Riker's attitude to Ro, however bad her behaviour, was not understandable but *disgraceful*! As a senior officer - and First Officer - he of all people should have known better. When Riker asked Ro to remove her earring it wasn't out of dislike for her attitude (they'd only just met) but out of prejudice (ie she'd been court martialled). As for Ro's attitude, I'd say she was ill-tempered, aggressive and abrasive rather than cocky, and considering her background that's hardly surprising.

To Sheila Clark - Why should intelligent life on low gravity worlds necessarily be insectoid? The Jarada from Season 1's The Big Goodbye are insectoid, and according to VE Mitchell's Imbalance (Titan 22) their world is normal gravity.

To Gaile Wood - Re DNA. I'd say that DNA is a universal concept, as it's a (somewhat) simple but very effective way to encode complete instructions to build an entire organism! No complicated programmes, just a four base pair 'ladder' and a sugar-phosphate 'backbone'. What may differ on other worlds are the compounds that act as the base pairs and/or the 'backbone'. Just because Humans are carbon/water based (I'm simplifying things!) doesn't mean everyone else is.

To Dave Styles - Re doctors in labs - as you said, I'm sure the script writers didn't mean to malign your profession. Still, have you considered that those doctors you mentioned (McCoy, Crusher, Pulaski and Bashir) may have carried out extra training to enable them to carry out lab research? Pulaski certainly did (see Unnatural Selection - she published a book based on her research). Alternatively, Starfleet may include as part of the medical programme (8 years, according to the ST Chronology) the kind of training that you yourself underwent in your biomedical sciences course. My point is that some doctors are capable of lab

research - have you forgotten Edward Jenner, discoverer of the smallpox vaccine and one of the founding fathers of immunology?

To Raj Badhan - In answer to your question about Spock's coffin, according to Vonda C McIntyre's book on ST III, it was Saavik who secretly programmed the coffin to intersect with the Genesis wave/soft land on the planet.

Top Catherine Carter - Having just seen Journey's End, I am in violent agreement with you! If Wesley Crusher is the next stage in Human evolution, all I can say is - come back Neanderthal Man, *all* is forgiven!

• **Raj Badhan - Birmingham**

Anyone who wants to work out the speed in km/s for warp speeds in Original Trek just get the warp speed number, multiply this by itself 3 times then multiply this number by 300,000.

Re ST IV - I think this is one of the best movies they ever made. There are a few problems with it, though - the first is the time taken to reach the sun from earth (before they time travel). The maximum speed they travelled was about warp 9.9. Converted to Km/s - $9.9^3 \times 300,000 = 2.91 \times 10^8$ to the power 8 km/s. The mean distance to the sun from the earth is 149,600,000 km, and simple division gives an answer of 1.95 seconds to reach the sun from earth! In the film it took about 15 seconds. How can this be?

Could anyone supply me with a copy of Unification and/or any other ST:TNG videos where the original cast appear. Also could someone supply me with any PC shareware ST games. I've got WinTrek and Begin, but I need some more. If you can help, phone 021 515 2539 after 6 pm and ask for Raj.

In N/L 33 there was an article about there being a map of the Trek universe. Can anyone give me the address of the company giving this offer?

Can any Basic Programmer supply me

with a program that can play the theme tune to the original series? I haven't got a soundcard. Also if you have any Basic ST programs please phone the number above.

Can anyone supply me with any old or new parts for Star Fleet Battles: Captains Edition Basic Set?

Whatever happened to Maltz in ST III after Kirk rescues Spock and beams aboard the Klingon ship? *[Sheila - according to the ST Encyclopedia, he was taken prisoner.]*

In ST III and V, we see the Excelsior. All other ships in Starfleet are numbered NCC -, but the Excelsior is NX-2000. Why is this? *[Sheila - The Encyclopedia says experimental vessels sometimes had NX numbers.]*

• **Edward Woo - Steward for Shades of Gray**

To Sheila Clark - I still had the notion of you posting 1300+ newsletters in the one postbox, and now that picture's all gone... By the way, is that postman a ST fan, by any chance? *[Sheila - No. Or if he is, he hasn't admitted it!]*

To Nanaki Kaur - I don't agree with you. Sisko does have command presence. Everyone stops when he speaks. His presence is felt through loyalty of the DS9 crew and respect of him by many Bajoran leaders. OK, so he does not dominate the proceedings, but you are aware he is there.

To Dave Smith - Re promotions - you forget neither Picard nor Dr Crusher have advanced in rank, though surely Data's 26+ years in Starfleet must merit a promotion to Commander!

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Have you noticed that a lot of ST fans who write are teachers? What's the breakdown of professions of the members? Has anyone been influenced by ST to enter science careers or become storytellers? (Tribble joke - Q - In what Olympic sport do tribbles participate? A - The tribble (triple) jump.)

To Catherine Carter - Garth of Izar's crew did mutiny, but thinking about it further, so did the crews of Pegasus and Defiant. Re a renegade crew for Voyager, shouldn't we redefine them as a 'misguided' crew? However, if such mutinies are possible, does this mean Starfleet is accepting a poorer standard in its cadets, thereby dropping the standards - and morals - if a whole crew is going to mutiny?

To Joan M Verba - Like you I fell asleep during Rightful Heir (at a con). The best Klingon story to date is Bloodoath. With a Vulcan in Voyager, though, we should get some more Vulcan stories in that series.

To Neil Safi - I'm a regular con goer and one of the few Chinese who attends these events. I've seen an Asian (Haminder), a negro (Dr M'Benga) and a few other minorities represented. People in fandom just accept you as a fan. I think ST is a bit off the beaten track for minority cultures, compared to Europeans. My parents think ST is childish, but they tolerate it.

To Tracy Saunders - I don't like the idea of Kirk being killed on screen. A better solution would be if he was lost or there was an air of mystery about his disappearance (death or retirement on some far-off planet).

To Helen White - I hear you are finally on the mend. That's good to know. I miss your jottings in the N/L!

• **Jean Perrin - Burton-on-Trent**

I have just joined IDIC. At 54 I wondered if I should be joining fan clubs or if I ought to have more sense, until I read Pamela McDowall's contribution and realised I wasn't the only Golden Oldie. After several series of TNG and DS9 I still prefer CT - the original characters had more depth (that should raise a few hackles!), I don't even like their phrase 'away team' (it sounds like a football match) - I much prefer 'landing party'.

To Nanaki Kaur - It's not really Sisko's fault, is it? Unlike Kirk and Picard, his command is going nowhere (except shuffling

to the edge of the wormhole) and whereas Kirk and Picard command up to 1000 crew, Sisko has only a handful of Starfleet officers. Most of the inhabitants of DS9 are doing their own thing. If anyone is miscast in DS9 I think it is the Doctor. He may be a good looking young man (if only I were 30 years younger... sigh!) but he looks far too young to have the maturity and experience to have been appointed to such a responsible job.

To Barbara Ellams - I too enjoyed reading Best Destiny but I can never accept James Kirk as a juvenile delinquent wandering aimlessly with no goal in mind. The James Kirks of this world know exactly what they want and go out and get it. But as a one-off in a vacuum, it was a terrific story.

Can anyone tell me what Dr McCoy's middle initial is? Michael Okuda gives it as H in his Chronology, yet several of the books give it as E, at least one suggesting it stands for Edward. Where does Okuda get his H from? *[Sheila - Okuda took all his facts from the episodes and the movies. In ST III it is given as 'H'.]*

I have read practically all the books of the original series. I have about 4 to go, so I shall shortly be getting withdrawal symptoms. Can anyone tell me where I can get a copy of Pawns and Symbols - Titan tells me it is out of print and can give no date for a reprint - if ever.

I know this might sound a stupid question, but why did they kill off Tasha Yar? I thought she was one of the better TNG characters. Did they want rid of the character, or did the actress fall foul of the Powers That Be? *[Sheila - The actress felt that her character wasn't getting enough to do and asked to be released from her contract.]*

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite characters are Kirk (plus McCoy if I'm allowed a second go), Data and Quark.

I don't agree with Kirk's being killed in the latest film. He was Gene Roddenberry's creation, and should only be killed off by him - and since that's impossible, I think he

should be left alive.

To Mike Hazelwood - I'm another one who won't be renewing my membership to the OUKFC. Since receiving my initial pack 8 months ago, I have received just one magazine. Every time I have ordered merchandise, I have had to chase it up and it took them 3 months to tell me they couldn't get the books I ordered. I have had better value for money after just 1 N/L from IDIC than I expect to get after a year from the OUKFC. I know you don't want us writing negative letters, but negative is the only word which comes easily to mind when thinking of the Official Club.

I have always been interested in space. I feel, on the sheer mathematics of things, there has to be somebody else 'out there' and it is my one regret that in my lifetime we are not likely to make contact. The downside to the ending of the cold war is that America and Russia no longer need to score points off each other in the space race, and so both have lost interest. At this rate, in 3 or 4 hundred years any would-be Enterprise will still be on the drawing board!

• **Kirstie Jordan - Pilsey**

First of all, could I please say hello and a big thank you to IDIC member Sarah Purdue - I really do appreciate your generosity.

To Sue Smith - (P29/30) - I also saw Joan Collins being interviewed by Clive James, but I don't think that she was necessarily being derisory, more like honest. I think that she was just trying to put across that what you see on screen is not always true to life.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - (P46) - Just think of the headaches Geordi would suffer if his visor responded to a whistle. Every time Data tried to perfect his whistling, or Riker fancied showing his appreciation of a passing female, poor Geordi would end up with his ears ringing!

To Peter Benei - (Questions) - From what I've seen, I would imagine that the Borg

remove devices and gadgets from their dead prior to transporting the body back to prevent their 'enemies' getting hold of them before the transporter beam engages.

As to Ferengi women, in a 1st season episode a Ferengi visitor to the Enterprise showed surprise at seeing females with clothes on and in positions of command. It would appear that Ferengi women are kept hidden away and treated like slaves.

Finally, I see that the BBC are at it again. Having impressed me no end by bringing TNG back (thank goodness - it's about time) they have pulled their usual Wimbledon stunt. Oh well, back to the videos till the tennis is over!

• **Joseph Gerencser - Tamworth**

I was pleased to read your "right of reply" style item in newsletter 34. More of the same please. It is important to introduce an element of self-regulation and to raise awareness within fandom for people interested in attending conventions, in my view.

Like many other Trek fans, I registered for Trek Dwarf II recently - primarily because I wished to see Nana Visitor - only to be disappointed. Trek Dwarf have been kind enough to provide the following explanation:

"It came to our attention that at a recent USA convention, Nana was asked why she couldn't do Trek Dwarf. Her reply was 'I didn't know about it.' This took us by complete surprise, so we decided to put on our investigating feet to find out why.

After a few lengthy phone calls to the States, we got our answer. Nana's agent has got a nasty habit of booking her into conventions and hoping that she'll be free to attend if the need arises, and apparently this is not the first time it's happened. To date, Nana has had to back out of three conventions due to work commitments - Trek Dwarf being the third. Nana is not a happy Bunny.

The moral of this story... 'never trust an agent'. We'll be more cautious!"

Are other Trek actors equally unreliable? Are convention organisers being unrealistic in their expectations of guests attending? At the end of the day it's the fans who suffer, unfortunately.

• **Roberta Martin - London**

I have to agree about the very poor standard of some of the Star Trek Novels. However there are a few good ones I would recommend to other fans. These are: Dreams of the Raven, Doctor's Orders, Ghost Walker, The IDIC Epidemic, The Three Minute Universe, The Vulcan Academy Murders and one I liked very much, Sanctuary! Crisis on Centaurus is also reasonable, as is Double, Double.

• **Henry Gallagher - Newcastle Upon Tyne**

I like all Trek: DS9 is getting better; TNG is probably the best both technically and content; however CT has an emotional pull the others don't have - probably because I grew up with that series. But I can't say I prefer one series over the others. Let's face it, the worst episode of ST is still better than the best episode of something like Crossroads could be.

I find the ST hour on QVC strangely compelling. I know it's easy to criticise but what other (inter) national TV station devotes an hour a week to Trek - with quite a high degree of viewer participation (as long as you buy of course!). I like QVC because there are no adverts (Ho! Ho!)

• **Disgruntled IDIC member**

I have now received a lovely personally signed b/w 10x8 of Gates McFadden and the same from Oscar winner Whoopi Goldberg. Both also returned my USS and I would like to say thank you to both Whoopi and Gates for restoring my faith that some stars do look after their fans.

• **Anne Clancy - Huyton, Merseyside**

This has been mentioned in part in this newsletter but I think it should be made known to fans, especially for new fans, eg me, what con committees mean by saying that it may cost you more to register on the day. I went to T'Kon expecting to pay a little

over £5 for 1 day as I am a student. I was asked to pay £15. This is three times as much and I wasn't prepared and didn't have the funds to cover this. I had already spent £10 getting there so it turned out to be a wasted day and ten pounds for me and my friend. I do however still want to go to a con and may even pay £15 next time, if I win the pools!

[Janet: You don't say which day you went. Fans going to a convention on a Saturday or Sunday can expect to pay at least 50% of the full registration. These are the main days at most conventions and the registration is to cover guest fees, equipment hire plus other running costs.]

• **Harminster Pal - Glasgow**

I sat down to watch Babylon 5, the first episode on C4, and enjoyed it. What I enjoyed more is at 6.20pm they said the Booo word (swear)! Not that I approve of swearing but it is nice to see C4 treating us like adults and showing it uncut. C4 is supposed to be a minority channel but so is BBC2, yet they cut/ban episodes of TNG because they think we can't handle it, or even worse it is for children! I hope C4 bid for DS9 and Voyager, I'd prefer uncensored episodes.

• **John Stuble - Boston, Lincs.**

(E-mail:- jps3@unix.york.ac.uk)

It's nice to see more and more IDIC members getting connected to the Internet. It's the ideal way to sustain discussion between newsletters.

To Jill Searle (Re: your comments on P51 n/1 34) - I think you have actually partially misunderstood my Article 'Infinite Diversity - A Personal View' (P 64 n/1 33). You weren't supposed to (necessarily) agree with all of it. My argument was (in part) that Star Trek fandom must be careful not to fragment into DS9ers or TNGers or Classics (erm... whatever!). Sure, you have the right to think DS9 doesn't fit into YOUR idea of Trek; I think it does, and so we differ. What must not happen is for anyone to dismiss another person's point of view simply because they don't agree with it. There is no need to get into such negative arguments as to whether, for example, professional books are actually REAL Star Trek or not. Just

because someone thinks they are not, it doesn't mean that,

"Your point is wrong because the books are not real Star Trek.....", is a valid argument. I know I'm biased, but so are you all. Once we all realise this, real discussions can take place. Anyway, thank you for being one of the very few people who replied to my semi-rhetorical questions.

By the way, seeing as I am working in London over the summer, I should be making a trip to Archon '94 at Heathrow. If you see anyone there, out of uniform, wearing a token, gold engineering badge, PLEASE say hello, it can get lonely sometimes.

• **Irena Hradecka - Prague, Czech**

I'm a new member of IDIC. N/L 34 was my first newsletter but I have to say I was surprised. I've never thought that borders between OT, TNG and DS9 are so strong. I thought we all are ST fans but it seems I'd have to choose one from TV-series and denigrate the other ones. Is that rational? I suppose it's a shame. I can't see any sense in arguing between ST fans about "TNG is the best! That's not true - OT is better! How dare you say something wrong about DS9!" and so on. I guess each of us prefers something but we shouldn't dislike anything else because of this. Especially if that's our history or future (i.e. I mean for OT is TNG & DS9 future and the opposite) My opinion - something is good, something is less good but I can't tell anything from ST is bad. I ever look for the better point of things and it can always be found something interesting. I personally prefer OT but I like TNG and DS9 too. Look - we are from the same part of universe although we're different. We are the members of IDIC that means "The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty." Perhaps we should be tolerant, stop arguing and keep together as a crew on any object of the UFP.

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite characters are: Spock, Data and Odo. You are absolutely right about difficulty to choose just one character per series.

• **Neil J Barrett - Not feeling inspired this month...**

To Sacha J Cowan. Welcome aboard. You don't have to ask permission to join the debates - just jump in feet first like the rest of us. I've got a question for all the vegetarians out there. Would you eat a replicated steak? Since it would be synthesized directly from organic materials there is no animal to suffer and you should have no qualms. But would said steak be kosher/Halal or anything else?

(To Tracy Saunders. Just how do you force a chicken to breed??? Answers on a postcard please...)

To Dave Styles. Are you sure that Bones did all that test-tube twiddling by himself? More likely that he handed the problem over to Chris Chapel (who was a Biomedical Scientist and a PhD before becoming a nurse). Similarly Bev and Kate have large lab staffs that they can call on. Bashie might have to do it himself because there isn't anyone else vaguely qualified on DS9. In fact, you should be able to specify the requirements for a drug to the Sickbay computer which would then experiment with the formulation, simulate the effects and then feed the results to the replicator which would produce a ready loaded hypo.

To Dejan Ladika. (Also Gaile Wood, Paul & Judie von der Fecht et al). If Tasha Yar was the best security officer in Starfleet then they're in deep doo-doo. Take 'Heart of Glory' where she forgets to search or scan prisoners before putting them in the brig. Jellicoe would have demoted her to vacuuming the corridors for that level of negligence but Picard was such a nice old duffer that she got away with it. What about 'Hide and Q' when Q arrives on the bridge. Worf leaps the railing and draws a phaser to confront the intruder while Tasha does ... absolutely nothing. I have to agree with Gaile that the concept of the character was good but the application was disappointing. Ishara would have been a better security chief.

To Rory Smith. Firstly, the replicator does not produce goods out of thin air - it

requires raw materials which must still be grown or mined or something. Otherwise Scotty could just produce new dilithium crystals whenever he wanted to and that would spoil a lot of episodes! Secondly, the replicator consumes energy which means that anything you produce has a cost. Producing fuel will take at least as much energy as you could get out of the product - even with 100% efficiency there can be no net gain. Ye canna change the laws of physics laddie!

To Matthew Hemsley. Chekov, Barclay, Bashir.

To Dave Smith. The rank must belong to the combination of Jadzia AND Dax - the entity is comprised of two beings, both of whom are contributing to the personality, skill, knowledge etc. Even if the rank belonged to Dax alone then there is no necessity for it to be any higher than Lieutenant. A long-lived race like the Trill may well go through a number of careers of which Starfleet is only the latest. Alternatively, even if Curzon Dax was also a Starfleet officer he may have had no desire to rise higher (being content to stay in the lab) or no aptitude for command. If length of service led to automatic promotions then the entire Admiralty would be Vulcans and Trill.

To Sheila Clark. Care to explain your reasoning for insectoid over mammalian? I'm sure you could develop a reasonable argument for avian life as well. Depends how you quantify 'very light gravity' really. A Terran born/raised on Luna before the development of artificial gravity would have the same problems as Melora (cf Kemlo the Space Boy). Bet Bashir wouldn't have fancied Prillica anyway...

• Jean Sloan - Liverpool

To Gary James - P35 - I think you will find that the 'anorak' was Edward Woo. There can't be two people who lurk in Liverpool bookshops handing out IDIC flvers! While I regard the practice of inviting people to join a ST club as eminently sane, I think Edward will probably get arrested some day. (Hi, Edward!)

I said last N/L (34) that I thought the last N/L (33) was the best yet - well, I was wrong - the last N/L (34) was better again (now I'm sure that's *perfectly* clear). The range of articles is wonderful. I liked Neil Barrett's analysis of Diane Carey's work; however, I disliked Dreadnaught and Battlestations. Neil is much kinder about the Mary Sue element than I am, and I would avoid other novels about Piper's exploits. I *did* like Best Destiny - I think it's one of the best of the more recent ST novels (mind you, that's not saying much).

Jacque Comben's article about the Prime Directive was also interesting. I wish it had been longer (Hint). Jay Stevensen's Typical Trek article was good - I liked this exploration of the reasons why certain episodes can be considered 'Trek'. I recently had a somewhat heated discussion with someone who was lauding certain TNG episodes for being 'thrilling' and 'exciting'. They happened to be episodes that I don't like, and I don't think *are* good Trek, which was a point I made. Jay Stevensen's premiss is a valid one; like whatever you like, but be conscious of what *is* due to Trek philosophy and what isn't. At UFP, Brannan Braga admitted that "We'll sacrifice everything for a good story line": I think that shows - and sometimes the story lines are naff as well - eg Lessons. (I suppose I'd better duck now!) Anyway, back to the N/L.

The Ferengi Rules of Acquisition; thanks for collecting them, Brenda; and the Star Trek Guide to Science - what can I say except 'more, please'. I couldn't answer Patricia Doyle's questions - had to cheat. I enjoyed EW's Stars, Planets... - right, Edward, I think you should research ships' names - origins of now... Have to find something to keep you out of the bookshops.

One of the most useful sections of the N/L (for me) is the review section - particularly zine reviews. If more people reviewed their favourite zines - out of print or not - it would give collectors information about what to look for.

What strikes me about the N/L over all

is how talented and inventive ST fans are.

• **Michael Farquhar - Golspie, Sutherland**

To Rory Smith - Re Dax in Emissary - the 'worm thing' is the Dax symbiont being implanted into Jadzia at their initial bonding. The old man from which it's taken is Curzon, Dax's previous host. The segment is a view into Dax's recent past, caused by the green Orb.

To Peter Benei - I think there's a line in The Best of Both Worlds II where Admiral Hanson says, "The Klingons are sending warships (to Wolf 359) - hell, we've even thought of opening communications with the Romulans." Whether the Klingon ships got there in time or the Romulans actually sent ships, I don't think was ever said.

Incidentally, I can't disagree with you more about DS9 and Bajor. One of the things I like *most* about DS9 is that for the first time in Star Trek we're getting to see a detailed view of another culture - its politics and its religion - and the more of Bajor that's in DS9 the happier I'll be. With Classic and NG, all we see is a brief glimpse into an alien society each time a new one appears.

To Matthew Hemsley - Spock from Classic (McCoy a close second), Picard from NG and probably Kira from DS9, though that one's a bit more tricky to decide just now. Quark and Odo are great!

Re the Orbs in DS9 - Does anyone have any information on the different abilities of the Orbs, and how many are now on Bajor? In Emissary, where Kai Opaka says that nine Orbs have come from the skies, the Cardassians had them all save one - the green Orb that Sisko and Dax used to see their pasts. In The Circle, though, we see a blue Orb, which Bareil says is the third - "the Orb of prophesy and change" that allows Kira to see her future. So how many are now on Bajor - and what do they all do? Did the Cardassians give back the Orbs they had taken?

SPOILER At the end of Descent II, where exactly is Lore? Data disassembled

him, yes - but he wouldn't have left him on the planet with all the Borg, would he? So Lore's bits must be on the Enterprise. What gets done with him now? Give him to Bruce Maddox? Put the bits in an Engineering storage bay until Barclay comes along and innocently reassembles them?

Gambit I - Isn't Data in command brilliant? The sooner he gets a promotion the better. Can't wait to see part II. I hated Invasive Procedures though - only good thing was that it proved that Sisko has forged a new friendship with *Jadzia* Dax, after his friendship with *Curzon* Dax, as she intimated in A Man Alone.

Oh - can I just say in closing - Helen White, you're brilliant! Your reports are always one of the newsletter's highlights. May you attend many more cons - and write about them for IDIC!

• **Jeremy Kelly - Epsom**

As a Classic Trek fan (there are some left, you know) I am somewhat surprised by the lack of debate in fandom concerning the lack of involvement of Spock, McCoy, Sulu and Uhura in Star Trek Generations.

It does, however, come as a relief to learn that Kirk, Scotty and Chekov will make it to the big screen one more time.

I have also read in the DWB magazine that Leonard Nimoy would be happy to participate in ST VIII if the part is right. In the light of this information would it not have been wise for the Star Trek producers, knowing there was only a small part for Spock in VII, to offer Nimoy a two-movie contract deal, giving him a cameo in VII with the understanding that his role would be vastly increased in size for ST VIII. A similar deal was struck with Nimoy over his guest star role in Unification.

• **Douglas McIntosh - Cumbria**

This is the first time I have contributed to the N/L, but it will not be the last. I find the Postbag thoroughly enjoyable (as I do the entire N/L). I think that sharing views and opinions with other fans is the purpose of a

fan club.

The other day I watched Emissary and noticed something peculiar. As Sisko is on the ship approaching DS9 he is wearing a uniform as seen on TNG, yet when he gets out of the airlock he is wearing the DS9 uniform; then when he visits the Enterprise is is again wearing a TNG uniform and then back on the station he is wearing the DS9 one. The same happens with Mr O'Brien, DS9 uniform on the station, TNG one on the Enterprise, then a DS9 one again. Did both Sisko and O'Brien change uniforms just to board the Enterprise, and if so why didn't Picard change his uniform to board DS9? Apart from this, I consider Emissary as good an episode as any from all three series of Trek.

Re debates on Kira's being useless - some people may find the Kira in this universe useless, but certainly not the Kira in the other universe. Reading Starburst magazine, I saw pictures from the DS9 sequel to the Classic episode Mirror Mirror, and it turns out that in the alternate universe the commander of DS9 is none other than Kira!

Re Starfleet Academy - wouldn't it be good if the governments of the world set up Academies similar to Starfleet, where people aged 16+ could enrol and learn self defence, survival tactics, medical teaching, first aid, engineering and sciences as well as other areas of knowledge (I'm sure it would be more interesting than schools or colleges). The people who graduate could go on to work in hospitals or be astronauts for NASA or their country's space agency. This kind of idea would help solve problems like crime, unemployment, etc. What does anyone else think of this idea?

Re ST:VOY, I'm looking forward to this. The idea sounds good. *But* I think DS9 would suffer as season 6 TNG did when DS9 started; more effort will be put into ST:VOY, and we'll probably be able to tell. I wonder why Paramount is creating ST:VOY now rather than wait until DS9 nears the end of its voyage - surely after producing two shows at once (TNG and DS9) the studio would like to

slow down.

Is it the studio's intention never to have a ST show off the air? I wonder what will follow ST:VOY. Personally, I'd like to see a Starfleet Academy series - what would other readers like to see next?

• **James Keating - Ireland**

I can't believe the BBC. I think they're getting sense by putting ST:TNG back on, but then after only a couple of season 4 episodes they stop! And then to add insult to injury the commentator at the end calls Captain Picard 'Captain Pick-ard'. If the Romulans are running the BBC then Q is the director general. At least I don't have to worry about it as here in Ireland we've got season 7 every week and also Sky 1.

Re Sub Rosa - I really quite enjoyed this episode, even if the majority response is negative. In my opinion it was far superior to the last Beverly episode - Suspensions (though that isn't hard). The concept of a human being an energy life form is hardly original but I still enjoyed the finished product.

Re TNG ending - From what I've seen Patrick Stewart is the only cast member who wishes to leave. While all the others said how sad they were, Stewart was saying how he looked forward to his upcoming projects.

• **John Snelling - Lisburn**

To Gaile Wood - P 31 - The reason Zarabeth is wearing so little is that the caves where she lives are warmed by geothermal springs. I'm not sure if this is specifically referred to in All Our Yesterdays but in A C Crispin's novel Yesterday's Son McCoy remembers this from their previous visit and they use this information to find Zarabeth's caves with their tricorders.

To Joan Marie Verba - As I believe personally in the Bible's account of creation, I find it hard to accept the concept of selective evolution, ie growing and developing (or discarding) an organ because it would be useful to me. While an extra finger would make playing my guitar a lot easier or being

empathic would help my chances no end in a job interview, I doubt if I could evolve them quickly enough to be much use to me! I suggest that personal preference has very little to do with the development or discarding of specific organs and this subject is only answerable by the 'Almighty'.

To Mike Hazelwood - P 42 - Re your query about replicating Datas I wonder what you might expect to get if you instructed the replicator to replicate a PC? Would you get one complete with Star Trek screen-saver & Judgement Rites on hard disc, or would you expect a PC with a blank memory waiting to be configured? Might this not be the case whereby you would replicate a 'blank' Data or Lore, which would then need to be programmed?

To Anne-Marie Flowers - P 46 - The main thing I remember about a keyring that responds to a whistle is it going off in my pocket at inconvenient times! Friends competed with each other to set it off at the most embarrassing moment possible. Can you imagine if Geordi was at the Academy with someone like Finnegan? Also there are quite a number of electronic beeps around the bridge and main engineering and it would be very inconvenient for his visor to start bleeping while he was trying to avoid a warp core containment breach! I think he would have done the same with his visor as I did with the keyring - left it in the bottom drawer until the power ran out!

• **Matthew Hemsley - Tamworth**

To Glyn Holland - I'm told Brent Spiner plays 'the fan in the lobby' in Starburst Memories (I haven't seen the film myself).

To Moira Warburton - Re your idea about bringing Tasha back (P 26). I think it's a great idea. Have you thought about sending your plot/story to Paramount Pictures?

To Joan Marie Verba - Re your comment about 'dull Klingons' and too many stories about them - I agree there are a tad too many Klingon stories, but I wouldn't say they were dull. Still, we all have our own

opinion.

To anyone - Re ST:VOY. I first heard about it from a friend. Since then I've been wondering about something. Wouldn't it have been a better idea to have ST:VOY set in the Gamma Quadrant? Well, whatever happens I will still watch it.

• **Gratiene Vandekerckhove - Belgium**

What the devil are they doing? Of all the cock and bull stories I've heard/read, this one really tops it off. *Killing Kirk!!!* Give me a living Kirk any time. Even with one foot in his grave he'd manage to raise hell if need be. Going out in a 'Blast of Glory!' indeed, as if that made it okay. Besides, what the hell glory is there in dying anyway? Sorry if my language has hurt someone's sensitive nerves but I had to have it off my chest!

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

Re zines - Buying new zines can be a delight or it can be an expensive disappointment. In N/L 34 someone suggested a postal library but I agree this would be difficult to administer.

May I suggest a couple of alternatives?
i) A bring and buy stall to be run on the lines of the White Horta stall at Contagion. Fans bring along their unwanted zines and books, sell them, give 10% to charity and hopefully pick up a few more zines for themselves. A possible venue for those living around Glasgow might be the Away Team meetings if the Committee was agreeable. ii) Another possibility would be for one of the SF bookshops in Glasgow or Edinburgh to start buying and selling zines. I would certainly be interested. Comments, anyone? *[Sheila - Andromeda and At The Sign of the Dragon both sell second hand zines and I believe will do so mail order.]*

• **Andrew Carnegie - Sevenoaks**

To Janet with reference to clips at the start of tapes; it is not just TNG 78 which has it but all of season six and seven tapes. Also your video release update is completely wrong. You say that TNG 80 was released on June 20th when it was in fact released before the June newsletter was even sent out.

[Janet: Sorry about the misinformation on the videos - I just took the info out of TV Zone.

I do have all the CIC videos but I never seem to get time to watch them. We found the clips when I put a tape on to show Sheila and Valerie the figure walking across the ready room windows.]

To anyone - I read in the paper that there was a lot of trouble on the set of ST VII with Will Shatner causing many arguments. Apparently he told Marina Sirtis that she was just a minor character and should be grateful to be in the movie, which is very rude since she is one of the best actors in the Star Trek shows and has been on TNG for over seven years. With all the trouble that is happening mainly as a result of Shatner's "I am the best" attitude, it does not seem worth making the movie. I don't want to be too rude since I really admire Bill but his attitude really annoys me. Any comments? *[Janet - Please don't believe everything reported in the National Enquirer.]*

Does anyone know where the command crew of the starship were in the DS9 episode Second Sight? Sisko and the other station officers assumed command and it wasn't right. Where were the ship's medical officers when the woman was dying? It was left to Dax to look after her. Will someone please tell me what was going on??

SPOILER To Edwin Yau I confess that I did like the second part of Descent but still object to Picard leaving Bev in charge. Having seen more season seven I have to say that I have enjoyed most of it. Gambit rates as one of my all time favourite episodes after The Best of Both Worlds. Parallels and The Pegasus were also excellent. However Wesley looked too young to be lieutenant and head of security. I look forward to seeing the development of the Worf/Troi relationship. In The Pegasus, why didn't Data follow Admiral Pressman when he tried to take command of the Enterprise since he is programmed to obey senior officers and the admiral outranks Picard?

To Peter Benei in response to some of your questions :

Earth is the headquarters and heart of the Federation and Starfleet command so it is reasonable that this is where they would want to strike first. Admiral Hanson told Riker over subspace that the Klingons were sending ships to Wolf 359 and that Starfleet was thinking of opening communications with the Romulans.

• **Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen**

To Dave Styles - I'm opposed to buying anything for speculation; that strikes me as a loveless pursuit. As I said, you buy comics, whatever, that you *enjoy* and if they accumulate in value, very good - you're in luck. If not, at least you have something you enjoy. I have comics in my collection worth a great deal of money; others are worthless. I like them because they reflect my interests.

I don't know you, you don't know me; I can only judge you by your letter writing and in that I get very confused. In one letter you comment quite strongly on video pirates and in the next you contradict what you previously wrote; similarly your recent conversion to collecting the Pizza Hut ST:TNG cups.

My own opinion of video pirates is that so long as no-one is making any money I can't see anything wrong with them. I get to see pirate videos (how, I'm not going to share with you) but I'm sure, like most fans who view pirate videos, I watch the shows when they are broadcast and/or buy the legit tapes so Paramount/CIC lose not one cent. I must confess I once bought a pirate video of The Flash TV show (many years ago) and when I saw how much money the dealer made from dodgy tapes I vowed never again. *[Ed - We can't help feeling that there ought to be a different word to differentiate between those pirates who make multiple copies of programmes and films to sell at a large profit, and fans who have a friend in the States who records the episodes on NTSC for them, but who then buy the CIC version, when available. If the legit tapes came out quickly, ie at much the same time as the episode is originally aired, there'd be no need for this. Fortunately, CIC seems to have realised this (though it can get pricey keeping up with them!)]*

The response to my offer for photocopies of the article from Entertainment Weekly was incredible. I'd like to thank everyone who sent for copies and offered money for copying. Star Trek folks are the nicest people.

• **Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll**

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite three characters from all Trek are Kirk, Spock and McCoy. Kirk is my favourite from the original series - I don't even have to think about that. Unfortunately I can't choose a favourite main character from TNG or DS9 - I used to like Dr Crusher least in TNG, but not any more - she has improved. My favourite guest character from TNG is the Traveller.

• **Ann Coulstock - Hertford**

Firstly, I would just like to say that to anyone who hasn't been to Pages Wine Bar, the Star Trek Theme Bar in Westminster, that they should go 'coz it is mega brilliant. I saw the last ever TNG and it was excellent; and the atmosphere - well, all I can say is fantastic.

To Glyn Holland - I think that you should get full size cardboard cut-outs of every male actor in TNG and DS9 and put them all round your home just to annoy your husband for his comments - mind you, though, they were funny.

To John Sherratt - I sent letters to all of the DS9 crew; I enclosed an addressed envelope with 2 IRCs to each of them eight months ago, and so far only Terry Farrell has replied, by sending me a signed photo. As for the rest - I am still waiting.

To Rory Smith. I'm a veggie, have been since I was 12. I am now 21 and I could never eat meat now. I feel that in the future more people will have become vegetarians because we are made more aware of how cruelly the animals are kept and transported from one place to another, and how inhumanely the animals are slaughtered, just to satisfy our bellies.

To Maggy Edwards - Everyone has to die at some stage, people can't live forever. At least the script writers have given you

some information on what has happened to the CT characters - so calm down!

To Su Taylor - I do hope that your letter is in this edition of the postbag. If not, I won't lend you my DS9 videos!

• **Su Taylor - Brickendon, Hertford**

To Ann Coulstock - Hi, Annie! It might have taken a few years, but here is my first letter to Postbag.

Re space for videos - I suggest that either Red builds an extension or you change rooms with Stuart.

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite characters would be McCoy, Worf and Kira.

To anybody - Over the past few Postbags, there have been a lot of comments on Kira being the only strong woman on Trek. Can I ask why people consider Troi & Crusher as not being strong? Or Dax, come to that. In the first series I considered Kira simply to be loud with an attitude problem. However, in the 2nd season her character has improved (hence my decision to name her as my favourite DS9 character).

For me, Kira's strength of character finally started showing when she was vulnerable and still having to deal with the situation at hand, ie in the opening trilogy episodes. It started me thinking about what defines a 'strong' character. I've always considered Troi and Crusher to be strong; the fact they are not present on screen in every scene of an episode does not diminish the strength of their characters. I would be interested in other people's views on this.

Thank you for the Star Trek Guide to Science - especially relevant to me since June is, and I fear always will be, exam time. Being knee-deep in God knows how many time invariant and different dimensional forms of Schrodinger's equation, it was good to be reminded that science can be fun and enjoyable.

Thanks to all at IDIC for a wonderful newsletter, as usual!

• Hayley Clarke - Australia

To Glyn Holland - My brother would like to add a few more to your husband's list; 5) No.1 would then have the starship in a continual state of spring cleaning; 6) Mr Worf would be made to take the garbage out every Monday night and the male officers would have to be careful what they say around the Captain at certain times of the month.

To Anne Gregory & Maggy Edwards - Who is this 'he' who keeps rubbing the dirt into William Shatner? *[Sheila - We edited the name out. Quite apart from anything else, subsequent reports indicate that 'he' is speaking to Shatner again and we don't want to stir anything up.]*

To anybody who has built the electronic lights and sound Enterprise-A, I seem to be the only person who did not have any trouble with making the model. I used Humbrol modelling glue for most of the parts except the struts and nacelles, where I used super glue (so I wouldn't get sore arms waiting for the glue to dry). Also the parts should be painted before assembly - less messy. At the moment I'm half way through painting the DS9 station model and apart from a few fiddley bits, it seems fairly easy to put together. I'll report later how it turns out.

To Matthew Christie - I think Data's medals were also mentioned in Measure of a Man, where they were named, though I can't remember if *how* he earned them was mentioned.

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite characters are Spock, Data and Odo (Kira just lost the toss to Odo).

To Jill Searle - I've also been told that Data has his arm ripped off while seducing one of the Klingon sisters. I was utterly horrified. Hopefully it's not true!

To Peter Benei - Re Question 1 - Who wants to see nude Ferengi women?

• Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

Firstly, I'd like to say I've been a member of IDIC for two years and I hope it

continues for ever.

To Marie Park - I read somewhere that Majel said that before Gene died he gave his blessing to the new series; and I'm sure Berman and Piller asked him for some advice. In this case, your statement that 'Gene had nothing to do with it' is a contradiction. I'm definitely not making a point against DS9. DS9 is a station and not a Starship, but Voyager is.

To Tracy Williams - I think it would be a tribute to Gene if other people continue with the production of ST, but why right now? Why not after ten or twenty years, when they could produce an even better series? I don't think we should be afraid about the 50th anniversary; CT survived over 25 years, and I'm certain TNG and DS9 will also - and of course ST:VOY.

By the time this N/L comes out I will have watched season 7 of TNG on the German channel SAT 1. I've seen 5 episodes so far and think this season will be one of the best. I must admit I'm not really happy about the end of TNG, but on the other hand I'm very excited about seeing it on the big screen.

• Jo Healy - Worchester Park

To Ann Coulstock, re your problem of storage for your videos. You could always try Argos, to solve your cabinet problem. I have managed to store 125 ordinary videos in a cuboard called the "Buckingham", which alas is only available from their Superstore, but they produced a "Gull Winged" storage unit, which claims to hold over 100 videos and is quite small (cost £49.99). Or why not try MFI, Texas or B&Q?

To Matthew Hemsley - my favourite characters from each series are as follows: Scotty, Data and Dr. Bashir.

I would also like to say a belated thank you to everyone who in some way contributed to N/L 32. You kept me cheery whilst I had to suffer hospital tests and doctor's appointments, whilst they tried to fathom what was wrong with me. (It turned out to be Glandular Fever; oh for Doctor Bashir, who could have told me that in a few

seconds.

Also, thank you to the three German IDIC members who wrote to me, I really appreciate your help.

• David J Raper - Hull

Having seen Lessons, I just thought I'd say that as a somewhat reserved man, unaccustomed to such emotions, Picard did not make too much of a fool of himself and aren't people in love supposed to be blind to the faults of the object of their affections? So she was less than perfect, but then who is? I am just glad they did not end with the cop-out of having her die on him, re Little Joe in Bonanza or even James T Kirk. As for the music, my only regret was that nobody discovered the Captain playing a flute in a Jeffries tube, which is hardly in keeping with Picard's image and would have been fun to see.

I have also recently seen Phantasms, and must agree that it is a somewhat disturbing episode for any Data fan, which I am sure the BBC will edit or even ban when they get round to showing TNG again. Personally I think that they should stick it on after nine, maybe on a Saturday, but at the moment the BBC attitude remains like the saying about blood oozing from a stone, a bleeding mystery, but the less said about that the better, for now.

To Rory Smith - According to the TNG Tech Manual, replicators have their limits, the heavier elements taking more energy to replicate. There are 'single bit errors' in replicated matter (see Data's Day) and they cannot replicate at the 'quantum level' necessary to produce a living duplicate. As for money, they didn't use it in the 23rd century - see ST IV - and they do not use it in the 24th; presumably they do use some sort of computer credit system.

To Jill Clements - Parallels. I loved it, and the look on Worf's face when he discovered he was married was priceless.

To Neil Safi - Worf's 'fluffy white jim jams'. Are you sure that wasn't the outfit he wears when teaching unarmed combat? I

don't recall ever seeing Worf in bed, except for Ethics, and that doesn't count since he was in sickbay with a broken spine at the time.

To Peter Carmody - The Starbase in measure of a Man can also be seen in TMP, upside down. It's where Kirk picks up a pod for that long trip to the revamped NCC 1701 - which is usually edited for TV - though it does look better the 'right way up'.

Finally, does anybody know of a decent Trek game for an Amiga 500 with one meg? I have been looking for one, but so far no luck.

Questions

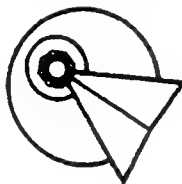
Andy Percy - What were the names of the 12 Constitution class ships? What happened to them? Picard told Scotty that one of the Constitution class ships "was in the fleet museum"; which ship is this?

Suggestions

Tina Baker - Has any one approached Brent Spiner to become an Honorary Member. I would like to hear more about him in the newsletter.

[We usually wait until we see an actor at a convention to ask them to be an Honorary Member. We print all the news we have on Brent and even if he became an Honorary Member we would be unlikely to get more.]

Stephen Day - Would it be possible to organise an area on "One Net World" for IDIC? One Net is accessed all over the world. My access is arranged through Etel at Telford College Edinburg, through a modem link. *[One member has offered to run an IDIC mailing list which you can join if you have an email address. There will be more information about it in the next newsletter.]*



DIANE DUANE AT WATERSTONE

(CANTERBURY) MAY 3rd 1994

reported by Dave Styles

May 3rd was a typical spring day in many ways; however, for me it was to be a first. Many was the time I had been to a bookshop to find that one of my favourite authors had given a talk the week before. Never before had I known in advance that such a presentation would take place. However, for once I had got prior notice.

For anyone who is not familiar with her work, Diane Duane is an author of science fiction, fantasy, history, children's stories, comic stories, and is the writer of many of my favourite Trek books. Her books include Spock's World; The Romulan Way; My Enemy, My Ally; and her most recent books is Dark Mirror. It was this latest one that was being promoted at Waterstone's bookstore in Canterbury.

Being of a somewhat retiring disposition I wasn't sure whether I should wear my Trek uniform. Like most other people I decided against it, though two brave souls dressed up. To their credit they did not seem at all out of place; if anything they added to the evening, which started with a Trek trivia quiz, which kept people occupied while the stragglers arrived. At 7.30 answer sheets were collected and Ms Duane began to speak.

I wasn't sure what to expect, and now (two days later) I can't remember exactly word for word what was said. However I can remember my sense of awe. My own attempts at creative writing - or any writing, come to that - are awful. But here was someone who could not only write brilliantly, but earned a living at it. Ms Duane spoke of her enchantment with Star Trek, and as the evening went on it became apparent that she was a very serious Trekker. She spoke of friendships with other Trek authors, gave a synopsis of a DS9 episode she had written (to be aired next year) and mentioned the Star Trek producer who came to stay with her. She mentioned in passing

that she had read the script for the TNG movie, but unfortunately was sworn to secrecy on the matter. She then read her favourite portion of the book Dark Mirror, a passage which she had recently read on BBC Radio 4.

There then followed a lively question and answer session in which Ms Duane was assisted by her husband, Peter Morwood. Mr Morwood is himself an accomplished author. There were many interesting questions, and I learned a lot. Did you know that when writing a story for a comic, the writer only supplies the dialogue? I didn't. Apparently someone else does the artwork. Also many of the TNG cast have the power of veto over anything their character does or says in comic book form. They can, as well, reject any artwork which they feel is unflattering to themselves.

Ms Duane was asked about her next Trek book. She said it was at the publishers. It sounded intriguing; in this book she had investigated something so terrible that Captain Picard would try to destroy it immediately without any attempt at reasoning or communication. "Star Trek meets Alien" was her phrase.

All too soon this session was brought to an end, as Ms Duane had quite a hectic week ahead. The quiz winners were announced. To my surprise I had tied for first place! Siegi, of Siegi's comics and books fame, came up with a tiebreak question which utterly stumped me - what was Gene Roddenberry's full name. I didn't know, and happily applauded the winner, who did. In retrospect, I was glad to settle for second place; the first prize was a book I already had. The second prize was the Star Trek Encyclopedia and a Starfleet Academy mug. Ms Duane then signed books and met people, and I was glad of the opportunity to spend a few moments chatting with one of my favourite authors.

The manager of the bookstore mentioned that since the evening had been popular he might well stage something similar again. I for one will be there.

SHOWBIZ TODAY

reported by Dejan Ladika

On Showbiz Today (20/6/94) there was a feature on The Next Generation farewell party at Paramount Studios, which took place on Thursday 19/6/94. All the crew got together for the screening of their last episode. After scenes from the party there were short interviews with four members of the cast.

They asked Michael Dorn and Marina Sirtis about the final episode and LeVar Burton and Gates McFadden about their feelings at the end of the seven-year journey.

Michael Dorn - In the final episode he gets close to another member of the Enterprise crew - and it's not Data's cat Spot. It's a person.

Marina Sirtis - There's a big shock as far as my character's concerned in the 'future' part of the episode which may not be looked on too well.

LeVar Burton - This has been a great seven years for me and I'm really enthusiastic about having the opportunity, having the time now, to devote to the rest of my career and the rest of my life.

The question for Gates McFadden was "What is the worst part at the end?"

Gates McFadden - I guess losing the space suit... No, actually, I'm thrilled; that spandex was getting very uncomfortable.

At the end the speaker said that the cast is currently shooting a movie which is due to come out this autumn.

JAY LENO TONIGHT SHOW

NBC TV, 15/6/94

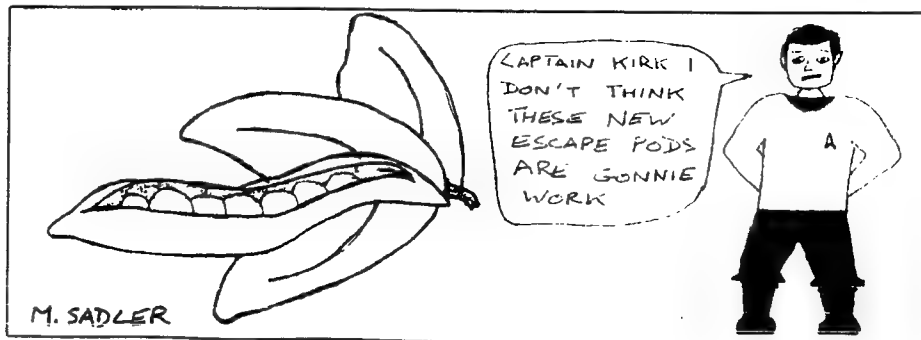
reported by Alan Stephen

Patrick Stewart was the guest on the Tonight Show. He spoke about the final days of ST:TNG and making the movie Generations.

Patrick confirmed he had a friendly relationship with William Shatner, and that he, William and Patrick's old friend Malcolm McDowell spent many evenings after shooting reminiscing about their days on the stage.

After shooting the last episode and the movie, Patrick went back to his trailer to clear it of 7 years of accumulated junk. After boxing what he wanted to keep, he thought he'd have a wander round the sets one last time, only to discover that the Bridge and Ten Forward had been destroyed or were in the process of being broken up.

Patrick said he would be staying in the US to watch the World Cup - he had tickets for the Republic of Ireland and USA games. Patrick finished his interview saying he was returning to the UK to appear in a play but would be returning to LA in a year.



BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

An account of the Trek Convention Committees' Get-Together held on Saturday 30th April at UFP Con, London

by Lee Owers Sansome

The idea for this meeting first arose at Holodeck '93, where I suggested - following a discussion on Business Meetings at which everyone present was 'pro' the system - that it would be a good idea to invite as many past, present and future Trek con committees as possible to an informal meeting, to discuss the present system, why so many committees chose not to use it and to promote better communications between those committees.

I agreed to host the meeting and UFP was suggested as a venue, since the Mav con was likely to be the occasion on which the maximum number of committees would have a representative present. In the event, life overtook plans for the get-together for many months and it was eventually organised at very short notice. So, my apologies to those who were overlooked - no snub was intended, just put it down to my lousy memory - and to those who could not make the date. Considering the short notice, a remarkable number of folk did attend, so thank you all very much for your participation.

Everyone present felt that our discussions should be reported as widely as possible within fandom for two reasons. Firstly, it was an informal, open meeting, intended to promote discussion, communication and ideas. There were, and are, no secret plans, no 'rules' and no mystique involved! Secondly, as a result of this meeting, a communications system was devised which we hope many con committees will want to utilise and we therefore want to let everyone know about it.

The convention committees represented in person at the meeting were: Starbase, Starileet Academy Weekend, Sadcon, Sol III, Holodeck, Wolf 359 and Warp 1. Individuals present were Ann Page, Rog Peyton, Lee Owers Sansome. Apologies and/or written comments were received

from Contagion, Midcon, T'Kon, Unicon, Archon, Galileo, UFP, Infinite Frontiers.

1) The Business Meeting system was discussed first. Rog Peyton, who was instrumental in setting up the system, explained that it was done because more and more people were wanting to run Trek cons and dates began to clash. There was particularly fierce competition for the Mayday and August Bank Holiday weekends. One year, three cons announced for the same weekend and personal financial losses were incurred by some committees. Also profiteers began to approach people such as Rog, with a view to running cons for profit. The Business Meeting was seen as a way of democratically allocating the Bank Holiday dates and giving the committees running those two cons a little more security. It was also hoped it would ensure that the two 'showcase' cons would be fan-run for charity, not for profit.

We moved on to briefly discuss the present day problems of the system. Everyone agreed that the ideal would be for the showcase cons to move around the UK - south, north, Scotland, etc - in rotation, but the lack of suitable venues for the increasingly large number of fans attending would make formalising such an arrangement very difficult. Another problem was felt to be that the Business Meeting rules have become over-complicated and incomprehensible to many. This actually puts off new committees from bidding. Also many committees felt that the vote would nearly always go in favour of an 'established' committee. This was quickly counteracted by everyone present who was, or had been, on an 'established' committee. New committees are welcomed into the system and should be encouraged. Fans should have the maximum amount of choice when it comes to a vote. Often, if a prior con has been disappointing, the established committee is actually at a

disadvantage.

The point was made that any or all of the Business Meeting's rules can be changed, simplified or abolished by submitting a written proposal and having a vote taken on it. The system should be what convention attendees want it to be and any or us can apply to change it.

The feeling of the meeting was firmly in favour of the Business Meeting continuing for the May and August dates but definitely against expanding the system to include more 'official' slots. All the committees present who run (or are planning to run) cons outside of the system felt that the market was there to support up to around 10 smaller conventions a year (aside from the 3 showcase cons) provided these were spread around the country and had a sufficient interval in between each.

2) To this end, the discussion turned to how we could promote more communication between con committees, in order to ensure that their cons did not clash with one another, in terms of date and/or location.

At this point Ann Page introduced some new information concerning the likelihood of professional Star Trek conventions taking place in the UK. We were all aware that Creation had made attempts to stage a UK con before, but it appears that one will actually come about either next year or the year after. Creation are in negotiation with a number of people and have approached organisations both outside and inside Trek fandom. Ann made the point that, with professional cons about to become a reality, it was essential that fan con committees 'pull together' from now on - to ensure the survival of the fan-run con and to prevent the gradual transformation of all Trek cons into money-making exercises. Everyone agreed that it would be essential for the fan-run cons to be seen (by the attendees) as efficiently-run, economical and - most of all - enjoyable. In this way, the committees can ensure that fans will choose to attend both the pro and amateur cons, or choose an amateur event in preference. If fan-run cons deteriorate in quality (which

could happen if too many run in competition with one another) then the professional cons could signal the demise of the amateur events.

3) A diary system was proposed by several people. A neutral individual would hold a central diary. Any committee planning a con could phone the diary and have their dates, venue and contact name and number entered into it. If there were any other cons already recorded in the diary close to their dates and/or venue, the diary-holder would pass on the contact name and number for those events and ask that they contact the other committee direct, to discuss whether one or both events should go forward. That decision would rest with the committees involved. The details of the second event would be pencilled into the diary and the contact asked to phone the diary-holder back within one calendar month with a decision about whether their event would be running. If no contact was made within the month, the pencilled-in event would be erased. In this way all committees would be aware of other events planned around 'their' dates or close to 'their' venues. It would be up to the individuals concerned how much information was exchanged with other committees or whether to change their plans if clashes occurred.

The diary-holder would be completely impartial. No-one would be told they could or could not have a particular date or venue and no preferential treatment would be given to any particular group. Ann Page has volunteered to be the diary-holder.

4) Gerry Taylor of First Contact was invited to join the discussion at this point, as it had turned to the promotion of fan-run events.

As the number of fan-run conventions increases, and with the prospect of professional cons entering the market-place as well, committees are seriously concerned about getting a sufficient number of attendees at their events. Gerry set up First Contact as a contact and information bureau for Star Trek clubs, so that news of interest to fans could be spread to a large number of

fans in a short time. At present, Gerry's system operates primarily throughout clubs in the northwest but he has offered to expand it to anyone in UK fandom who is interested. Those already involved recently jointly purchased an advert in the national press, advertising their clubs. Because the cost was spread between several clubs, it proved inexpensive for each but reached a huge number of potential members.

It was suggested that anyone contacting the diary could also be given First Contact's number. When details of their convention are finalised, they could send them to First Contact for distribution. If the committee felt they needed publicity outside fandom, they could contribute towards a group advert in the national press.

Gerry Taylor made it clear that

a) participation in the networking of information on the con or in advertising would be entirely optional.

b) First Contact's facilities are available to any group in fandom and are not dependent on coming through the diary system.

In this way, First Contact remains entirely impartial.

All the committees present at the meeting would like to give this voluntary system a go and are hoping other committees will feel the same. If anyone reading this article is planning a con any time in the next 2 years, please contact us if you would like to have your details entered into the diary:

Ann Page (diary holder) 0709-851353

Gerry Taylor (First Contact) -61-652-2370

Lee Owens Sansome (Queries/Comments)
0827-64911

Finally, we would like to assure everyone that this is *not* a new set of rules! Whether or not to use the diary or First Contact is up to you and no-one will be criticised for not doing so. It is our aim to provide a truly impartial system of communication between con committees, for the benefit of all Trek fans. Obviously this requires a degree of trust on all our parts. We can only hope that you will feel able to extend that trust to us so that we can prove our integrity.

☆☆☆☆

Is UK Fandom too Introspective?

by Shaun Brannigan

Whilst not wishing to be too controversial with this question it is one which warrants some active debate. Having been a Star Trek fan for over 20 years, I only "discovered" Fandom about a year ago. My dictionary defines "introspection" as an examination of one's own thoughts and feelings - ie. it is contemplating ones own navel. In the context of Fandom what is the point I am making? Simply that, in the main, we tend to forget or ignore the outside world, and the outside world is only vaguely aware of our existence and would not know where to start if they wanted to join in the fun - presuming of course the desire was there in the first place. It is not so much that we do not effectively market ourselves, but that even in the absence of marketing, there is very little way that an outsider can break into

Fandom even if the desire was there.

To illustrate my point, pause for a moment and remember how you first got involved. The odds are it was through a friend, or a friend of a friend. In extreme cases people have to set up their own clubs and of course we all extend our gratitude to the founder members of IDIC. I myself joined after Janet's letter appeared in the Satellite Times. Judging from the reported number of renewals due about now, so did an awful lot of other people. Having joined, that opened up the floodgates for me.

The reason I asked the question is not to be negative about our introspective nature, but rather to be positive in highlighting how easy it could be to open up Fandom to the

outside world. Janet's letter was one such way, and there are many others. I am talking about the marketing of Fandom. I believe an expansion of Fandom is healthy. It brings in new talent and ideas. It broadens the enjoyment of Star Trek and it will undoubtedly improve our public image. It may even get the BBC to show ST at a better time. And finally, let's not forget, it could bring more revenue into the clubs and cons etc.

First, we need to consider where we are now before we address where we want to go, let alone how we can get there. Marketing is not about reality but about perception. What I am about to say is my perception of Fandom after a year's experience. The way I see it, is that there are a number of core national organisations, including IDIC, STAG and SFC. These are supplemented by smaller local groups, which between them organise various events and cons of varying scale. So this is Fandom with a big "F". But of course fandom with a small "f" is a lot bigger than this. It would be a very interesting exercise to compare the (JARGON ALERT) socio-demographic profiles of Fandom (eg. IDIC members) with that of broader fandom. I suspect that the profile of broader fandom would more closely match that of Sky TV subscribers and BBC2 viewers. So this is the platform upon which we can build.

There is an advertising anagram AIDA which I think we can use to good effect. It stands for Awareness, Interest, Decision, Action, which is the process any consumer goes through before buying. By focusing on each of these in our activities we can raise the profile of Fandom. I'm not talking about a grand national TV advertising campaign, or anything as unrealistic as that. Instead I simply want to highlight the opportunities which may be missed when organising any event or activity. Rome wasn't built in a day, and big strides can be made by simple steps - we just need to think about them. We don't need to be systematic about this. Unsystematic activity can help. We simply need more of the little things, like Janet's letter in Sat Times, or the local radio station being informed about conventions - like at Holodeck. We are already doing the right

things in a limited way; we just need to do more of the same. With AIDA I don't think we've got a problem with "Interest", or even "Decision". We lack "Awareness" and "Action". How aware is Joe Public of us? And even if aware, interested and decided what action could he/she take? We all now know where to look; but when we didn't where would we start?

But what about a systematic approach I hear you cry. Well that's another story all together. I would be interested to hear people's views and input on this.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

INTERSECTION

INTERSECTION is the 53rd World SF Convention, and is being held in Glasgow over the 1995 August Bank Holiday. Its guests are Samuel R Delaney and Gerry Anderson; and Diane Duane and Peter Morwood are Toastpersons.

Although Worldcons may be thought by fandom as being for "book fans", the programme at Intersection will be aimed to include media, comics, radio, literature, science, games, films, fan and filk interests; there will be guest speakers, talks, panels, exhibitions, dealers' room, zine library and more.

There should be a Worldcon table with info and merchandise at a lot of forthcoming conventions and media groups will be kept in touch. If anyone would like further info on registrations, etc, please send SASE to UK Intersection, Admail 336, Glasgow G2 1BR, Scotland. Anyone who would like to discuss ideas, programming or publicity feel free to contact Claire Brialey, 26 Northampton Rd, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7HA



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRED KIND (part 2)

"Didn't I See You at the Shapeshifters' Ball?"

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

The definition of shapeshifter is difficult in itself, and more so when you consider the variety of them the crews of various Enterprises have met. Basically I suppose they could be defined as creatures which have been seen in two or more forms within a Star Trek episode.

This leads to the distinction, albeit blurred, between them and energy creatures. They could be the same, but for the purposes of this article I will treat them separately.

Purely by nature, a shapeshifter is formless, though only one or two actually appear this way. There are a few on the borderline which for argument's sake I am including here.

The first one encountered was in The Man Trap. The Salt vampire had no fewer than five physical forms within the course of the episode, not including its own. This one appeared to be telepathic (not uncommon) as it took the form which its current companions would feel most comfortable with - or not as the case may be. The knuckle-chewing was introduced as a way of identifying the creature in its different forms, before the usual ST means was devised.

In The Cage and The Menagerie we have the Talosians and their ability to change. These are on the borderline as their shapeshifting (as to Pike when he grabs the Keeper's throat) is an illusion only.

The Squire of Gothos brings a question; knowing that Trelane's parents are energy creatures, what is he? By extrapolation he too must be one, but as he appears in physical form it would also make him a powerful shapeshifter. There is, of course, another answer which I will return to.

Similarly, the Organians in Errand of Mercy state that they have taken Human form so that the Enterprise crew can relate more easily to them. It follows that they will take any form necessary to converse with visiting lifeforms, though the Organians themselves are energy creatures.

The 'magic wand' held by Sylvia and Korob in Catspaw merely enhances their ability. But without it the illusion is shattered. Sylvia is shown as a woman, a black cat and a 'thingy' which is very hard to describe. In the first two the shapeshifting is signified by a crystal around the neck, worn by the Human Sylvia and the cat.

Who Mourns for Adonais? brings up the question - was Apollo a shapeshifter? Knowing the strange things the other Greek gods got up to (and shapeshifting was certainly one of them) would it not follow that Apollo was capable of it? The fact that at the end he 'spread himself on the wind' leads to another question to be dealt with later.

The Kelvans in By Any Other Name stated that they had become so used to Human form and Human emotion that they could not return to their home in the Andromeda galaxy. What was their natural form? Shapeshifting is intimated here but not proven.

The shapeshifting cat reappears as Isis in Assignment Earth, this time denoted by a diamante collar worn by the black cat and the rather fetching female form of this creature. I would have liked to see what other ideas were in store for her!

A borderline shapeshifter appears in And The Children Shall Lead, as it is uncertain whether Gorgan is a physical entity at all. As he feeds on the children's belief in

him, and takes on a more terrifying appearance when Kirk breaks his hold on them, he would just about qualify for this category.

The most confusing and best-portrayed shapeshifter has to be Garth of Izar in *Whom Gods Destroy*. This time there is no means of identifying him in another shape. The fight between Garth and Kirk at the end of the episode has a perfect parallel much later.

There is a considerable wait until the next shapeshifter appears. This is the Creature of Sha-Ka-Ree in *STV:TFF*. Like several others before it this too is telepathic, and pretty angry. Full credit to the FX team for this one. It is hard to see exactly what chases Kirk up the mountain.

STV:TUC has the Chameloid. In a fine copy of the fight in *Whom Gods Destroy* we have two Kirks, one of whom is a shapeshifter, joined in battle. Kirk's comment that in order to kill him you would have to kill both of them is repeated here too.

The *Next Generation* has its resident shapeshifter-cum-energy-being, Q. So far, in addition to his Human guises, he has appeared as a storage container (True Q) and an Aldebaran serpent (Hide and Q). His abilities prompted the questions - was Trelane a Q? Was Apollo? Incidentally, is the luminous glob which chases the Enterprise in *Encounter at Farpoint* Q's true form?

Also in *Farpoint* are the 'space jellyfish' which prove to be shapeshifters after one appears as a spaceship and the other as the *Farpoint* station itself.

Again there is a wait. The next shapeshifter of sorts that the crew meets is also the most dangerous - Tasha Yar's nemesis, Armus in *Skin of Evil*. Though he is basically a pool of tar he does change form and density enough to qualify as a shapeshifter - though I am willing to debate this.

Star Trek meets *Space 1999* (alias *The Dauphin*) has the most blatant and also the

most unbelievable shapeshifter of them all. This would have worked without the 'monster of the week' added for effect, as the 'allasomorphs' shapeshifting was effect enough.

The *Survivors* echoes the animated episode *The Survivor* in that both episodes deal with a shapeshifter taking Human form to hide in a humanoid society. In one case a Vendorian and in the other a Douwd, the actual forms of both are seen towards the end of the episode.

When Marla Astor is killed in *The Bonding*, an entity takes her form, convincing Jeremy that it is something else. Again, as in *And The Children Shall Lead*, this entity survives on belief in it.

The shapeshifting powers of the creatures in *Allegiance* as well as their extreme claustrophobia are handled very well. As to whether these are energy creatures or true shapeshifters I cannot say, but they certainly skimmed their research!

The rather naughty child in *Future Imperfect* is not a true shapeshifter - his gigantic holodeck does that for him - but he is included as he gives the impression of shapeshifting. I wonder what eventually became of him?

Similarly, Ardra shares the love of illusion with the Talosians. She appears to shift shape but it is mainly holographic projection, as Picard proves when he commandeers her ship at the end of *Devil's Due*.

The 'empathic metamorph' Kamala in *The Perfect Mate* again shows that many shapeshifters are telepathic. It seems to run with their other powers. Although Kamala never changes her appearance she is stated to be a metamorph.

A more malevolent entity, second cousin to Gorgan, appears as Isabella in *Imaginary Friend*. Again she does not actually change shape but is stated to be an energy creature who has taken Human form.

Close on the heels of that came the Davidian creaturus in Time's Arrow, capable of shifting shape to appear in nineteenth century America, alone with the walking cane which becomes a rather fearsome-looking snake. These are interesting if slightly malevolent, but not enough is seen of them to make a full summary.

The shapeshifting dog in Aquiel is of a different kind. It can only become something it has touched - there is a term, but it has escaped me at the moment. The moment when Beverly discovers what it is is one of the best so far.

And what summary of Trek shape-

☆☆☆☆

TREK OF A LIFETIME

by Rosalyn Holland

To anyone who has ever thought of attending the Cruise Trek conventions, I say *go for it*. I have just returned from Cruise Trek 94 to Alaska, and every minute of it was fabulous. We had 7 nights on the ship out of Vancouver, Canada, and while the convention only ran when the ship was at sea (so no-one was torn between Trek events and shore excursions) we were of course 'holed up' with the Star Trek guests for the whole week.

There were 10 guests from the casts of all three series, and also 'behind the scenes' guests such as Ron Moore and Michael B, who did special effects, and Karen Westerfield, Armin Shimerman's make up artist - a big lady who made my own 12.5 stone seem like Twiggy. Being a fan of the Classic series first my cruise was made by the presence of Jimmy Doohan and George Takei. George had his mother with him and she proved to be a favourite with the fans, who took her under their wing when George was busy with his Trek commitments. Majel Barrett-Roddenberry was also there with her (and Gene's) son Rod. I sat by Majel on the flight to Los Angeles, after the cruise, and she said (con committees please note) she would love to be invited to a British Star Trek

shifters would be complete without the bane of Quark's life, sitting in his bucket behind his desk in the Security office of Deep Space Nine? Odo is certainly one of the most interesting - and humorous - shapeshifters we have yet met. His run-ins with Quark are legendary! Yes, I own up, I have a soft spot for him - a large bath sponge.

As can be seen the distinction between energy creature and shapeshifter is poorly defined. Some may belong in one category and some in the other. I hope I have done justice to the number of these creatures which the Enterprise has encountered. Have I missed any?

convention. Richard Arnold was also on the ship and he did a special Tribute to Gene Roddenberry on the last day, at which Majel read a piece about Gene that had a lot of us in tears.

Other really excellent guests were Max Grodenchik (Rom of DS9), Rene Auberjonois (Odo of DS9) and Robin Curtis who gave freely of their time to the fans to talk, have photographs taken and make each fan feel like a personal friend. They even remembered my name and used it any time I bumped into them around the ship. On the basis of my having 'met' Max at Leicester last year, he sat down for a long chat and autographed a special photo for me 'from Leicester to Alaska'. All the guests joined in with the Trek events and had a good time doing so. The other outstanding guest I must mention was Eric Menyuk (The Traveller, TNG). I can't say enough in praise of Eric. He took over most of the events, playing compere at several, and being extremely funny and entertaining at all. At one point he teamed up with Robin to compere 'Actors Entertainment Hour'; both were extremely funny as two 'over the top' fans. At this event Max brought the house down with a song 'All I want is my brother's bar' to the

tune of 'All I want is a room somewhere' (from *My Fair Lady*).

Having got used to the round of video rooms at British cons, I was a little taken aback to find that on this cruise there wasn't one. The nearest thing to a video room was your cabin, where you could watch non-stop Trek movies on the TV the days we were in port. Also with so many guests no one did an individual talk. All the actor guests were lined up on stage together and fielded questions from the audience. A point of interest: George Takei is not in the new movie *Star Trek Generations*. During a

conversation with George and his mother he said, "I passed on that". Like Max, George also remembered the great time he had at Leicester last year (guests at Midcon) and was happy to sit and chat about it.

One thing that made up for not seeing season 7 episodes on the ship was getting to see the 2-hour special, which is to be the very last episode of TNG ever made. This was screened at a dinner given by the Cruise organisers the night before we sailed. I will not give the plot away but just say that a lot of the things fans have lobbied for over the years come true at last.

☆☆☆☆

JOHN M FORD

or

Does this guy like Klingons or what?

by Neil Barrett

In IDIC 32, Marysia Kolodziej classes both of John M Ford's Trek novels as "buy or die unfulfilled". I second that unreservedly. Even if you're not a Klingon fan (and I'm not) these are two of the best around and shining examples of the variety of forms that Trek fiction can take.

'The Final Reflection' is a Trek historical i.e. it takes place in the universe we know but some time before Classic Trek. There have been a number of these around, some are pure historicals like Diane Carey's 'Final Frontier'; some are time-travel stories like Margaret Wander Bonnano's 'Strangers from the Sky'; some are mix'n'match like Diane Duane and Peter Morwood's 'The Romulan Way'. I generally like this approach because I enjoy finding out more about the races that make up the Trek universe.

'The Final Reflection' is set about 45 years before Classic Trek and concentrates on Krenn of the line Rustazh. This is the earliest (first published 1983) novel I've found which depicts Klingons as having honour. Although the cover art shows Krenn as a Classic Trek Klingon (or fusion or

Northerner) the personality is that which we have come to associate with TNG Klingons (or Imperial or Southern). (As an aside - in IDIC 33 Keren Breen asked who was doing the PR for the Klingons. Blame John M Ford!) Unlike other authors (e.g. Michael Jan Friedman in 'Faces of Fire') we get the background to this transition, an explanation of Klingon philosophy and culture which makes it more believable.

Ford also gives us some useful facts about the Klingons; he introduced the concept that Klingons only live to about fifty Earth years and that this may well be a factor in their culture - Klingon life is definitely Hobbsian. He introduces us to *klin zha*, he establishes the Klingon naming conventions, he even takes the trouble to give the Klingons a distinctive turn of phrase when speaking English. In short he develops the Klingons into a fully-rounded race from the rather simplistic view of bloodthirsty rogues that we saw on screen.

Most importantly, Ford wraps all of this up in a decent plot. Not particularly big on action but plenty of intrigue, a good pace and not too predictable. There are some Cold

War touches, as with many Klingon novels, and the approach is to show Krenn as a decent and honourable officer, being manipulated by his less scrupulous seniors in Imperial Intelligence. In some ways it's a shame that Captain Krenn would have been too old to ever encounter Kirk (although he does briefly meet Spock as a child) since he would certainly have been a worthy opponent.

'How Much for Just the Planet?' is also a Klingon-oriented story but about as different from 'The Final Reflection' as you could possibly get. I have not yet encountered a fan who didn't have a strong view on this novel, whether positive or negative. Basically, you either love this one or you hate it and I love it. OK, you can't take it seriously but you're not supposed to.

It's not difficult to see why many people dislike this novel, simply because it puts most of our favourites in highly ridiculous and embarrassing positions. Kirk is reduced to running around trouserless in best Brian Rix style; Uhura gets herself tied to a Klingon film buff; Scotty plays possibly the most violent round of golf ever and the climax is in the finest traditions of slapstick. Spock doesn't appear much but this is

probably a good thing since Spock would probably be totally out of place; instead we get T'Vau, probably the sloppiest Vulcan in the universe.

Interspersed with all this we get several throwaway jokes, film pastiches, spoof interludes and songs. Yes, songs, some original and some standards with new lyrics. 'How Much etc.' was originally planned as a Trek stage musical and the songs have survived. The concept is quite mind-boggling but I'd certainly like to see it... OK, it's one long joke but it still works as a Trek novel. The interplay between the characters is there in a couple of unusual pairings - McCoy with Sulu and Scott with Chekov. Nobody really does anything wildly out of character, it's just that all the idiosyncracies are brought to the surface and magnified.

Finally, there is one serious point to 'How Much etc.' which is partly explained in the novel and partly left for us to realise. I don't know if Gene would have approved of the ignominy heaped on his creations in this novel but I suspect he might agree that perhaps it is better if the Federation and the Klingon Empire were to always settle their differences, not with phasers and disruptors, but with custard pies.

☆☆☆☆

PLAGIARISM - OR COINCIDENCE?

by Sheila Clark

In N/L 33, we printed a letter which pointed out similarities between a printed story and an unprinted one which the first writer had in fact read and from which, with the knowledge of the second writer, she had taken an idea to develop.

A lot of fan writing is vaguely... let's say incestuous. Someone reads a story, doesn't like the way it's been developed, and adapts the idea (or part of it) for rewriting with a different denouement. Someone reads a story, feels it is unfinished, and writes a sequel. Someone sees an episode and wants to redevelop or further develop the idea presented in it. Some episodes, in fact, cry

out for this treatment, but that's matter for an article all on its own.

However, coincidences in writing also happen. We have occasionally had two stories submitted more or less simultaneously from people who did not know each other and lived many miles apart, where certain aspects of plot and development have been virtually identical.

Basically, there is no copyright in ideas. Indeed, if there was, the world's literature would consist of very few books! There is, after all, only a handful of basic plots. If ideas were copyrighted, there could only be

one or two murder mysteries, for example, depending on method and how the crime was discovered - or, more probably, one or two murder mystery writers. Publishers like Mills and Boon, who print hundreds of stories on similar themes, would never have come into existence.

A propos of that, I remember a short story I read some years ago. Set in a university, it revolved around a student writing a thesis. However, a thesis was only acceptable if it was on a subject, or an aspect of a subject, that had never been handled before. Writing the thesis was easy; finding something to write about could take years.

As well as coincidences, subconscious copying of ideas from something in print is also possible - that is one reason Paramount copying employees whose job it is to check out everything in a submitted script with that in mind. Did you know, for example, that Heinlein wrote a story (Space Family Stone) that included small furry creatures that bred fast many years before David Gerrold wrote *The Trouble With Tribbles*, and Paramount had to get clearance from Heinlein before *Tribbles* could be accepted? Gerrold did remember having read Heinlein's book although he could not consciously remember anything about it. (Gerrold - *The Trouble With Tribbles*)

Yes, plagiarism exists, but only when the entire - or almost the entire - development of the second story is identical to the original and *it can be proved that the second writer read the first one's story and rewrote it without the first writer's knowledge*. I've read one or two examples in fan writing where I said, "That's a rewrite of - " (not necessarily another fan story - one was a rewrite of the Oliver Reed film *The Trap*) where virtually all that had been changed was the names of the characters. I've also read one or two examples outside fan writing, where a professional writer produced as fiction a retelling of a non-fiction book. I still remember the sense of disillusion I experienced the first time I encountered that phenomenon, and realised that the fiction writer's imagination wasn't as fertile as I'd fondly thought. But then he probably hadn't

expected a 14-year-old to be reading the kind of travel book he had utilised to provide his story.

There's a thin line between plagiarism and researching facts. A comment I once saw says it all; "Copy from one book it's plagiarism; copy from several, it's research". Possibly cynical - but true.

☆☆☆☆

TIME TRAVEL

by Raj Badhan

There have been many astronomers who have tried to explain time travel, but none more than Frank Tipler.

He said that time travel is possible, but not using the sun (as *Trek* did). According to modern theories of space-time and Einstein's theory of general relativity, the way to time travel is not the sun or black holes, but what are called naked singularities. This is where the laws of physics break down - as in the heart of a black hole. Stephen Hawking has shown that black holes gradually 'evaporate' to expose the singularities - naked singularities.

If the universe is old enough, and these singularities do exist, then according to the laws of physics it is possible to orbit the singularity. This is the heart of time travel.

But the story does not end here. To actually travel through time, you need to build a ship - but this is no ordinary ship, according to Tipler, it needs to be a cylinder 10 times longer than its diameter; it needs to be packed with a substance which is very dense (eg a neutron star - such a star may have the same mass as the sun but packed into a volume of no more than 15 miles).

If the Klingon ship was built like this, the matter-antimatter chamber might act as a neutron star. The cylinder would then have to spin twice every millisecond, with the rim of the cylinder moving at half the speed of light. This would have been more suitable for ST IV than just going around the sun.

☆☆☆☆

LET'S STOP BASHING BILL!

by Jay Stevensen

So the rift between Bill Shatner and James Doohan may be healing (N/L 34 p.14)? Let's hope so. I've always felt it was a shame this animosity had to spill over into fandom and even more of a pity that some fans (fans?) seem to have taken this as an incentive to indulge in some Bill bashing of their own. Mr Doohan's anger is based on personal grievances. Those who have never met Bill Shatner have no such excuses. Is he really pompous? Conceited? Mean to his fans? A lousy actor? C'mon, folks, look at the evidence....

Take the character assassination bit pompous people aren't usually able to laugh at themselves. Check out Star Trek Memories! Off stage Bill is known to dislike signing autographs and talking about his work. Conceited? I also find it significant that among the many people he worked with and who did get along with him he seems to have retained a long term-friendship with Leonard Nimoy. Reading between the lines of various interviews Mr Nimoy does not sound like the kind of man who would willingly put up with the humourless egomaniac Mr Shatner is sometimes made out to be.

Bill does come across as being dedicated to professional excellence and he admits that this sometimes made him thoughtless towards the needs of others. I think Grace Lee Whitney (N/L 34 p.15/16) probably summed him up best (and she did work with him): "One minute you love him, the next minute you're frustrated with him." Met anyone like that? I certainly have. They're usually larger than life, very generous, but often hurt people without realising they're doing it.

And what about disliking his fans? I didn't hear the infamous "get a life" remark but it did make me wonder what kind of fan Mr Shatner had in mind when he made it. I bet he's seen some excesses in his time. It must be frustrating to be constantly type-cast by over enthusiastic Trekkers or (worse) by prospective future employers.....but no

sensible actor rejects his fans. They may not pay his wages, but they help to ensure that someone else does.

I'm also willing to bet that a popularity poll among those who have met Bill would bring positive results. Even Walter Koenig (not exactly a member of the Shatner Appreciation Society) tells in Chekov's Enterprise how Bill helped smuggle two girls who wanted to meet him on the last day of their trip to LA round the sets of ST:TMP and ended up chatting to them before they left.

Bill's performance in Trek has been called many things, not all of them complimentary. He does sometimes go over the top (a habit of some stage actors on the small screen) but as Gloria Fry points out (N/L 31 p.25) most of the time his acting was excellent and often, I'd add, quite restrained. Consider also that he made 79 episodes of Trek in three years (the equivalent of about 36 feature films) shot at speed and with minimum rehearsal, during which he was called upon to speak dialogue that ranged from excellent to awful, and to play scenes that varied from slap-stick and romance to suffering a Jekyll and Hyde transformation and making us believe his body has been taken over by a hysterical woman.

And it's a fact that whether swooping minds with aliens, fighting funny-smelling clouds or being submerged in dead Tribbles, Bill never destroys our ability to believe in James Tiberius Kirk, Starship Captain. Isn't that what good acting's all about? Boyish face, extrovert personality, gung-ho speeches on the American Way of Life and all....Kirk is believable. All the time.

For most Classic fans the Kirk-Spock-McCoy partnership makes the series special and we now know that Mr Shatner's presence acted as the catalyst for the Kirk-Spock relationship at least. Don't take my word for it..... Leonard Nimoy has admitted that his character only came together when paired with Bill's version of Kirk: "There was a

chemistry between us that made a lot of sense".

Trek with Jeffrey Hunter as Chris Pike might have been good, might have been excellent, but would it have been as enduringly popular as the Trek we know today? I'm inclined to agree with Sarah Irons (N/L 31, p.31) that it probably would not. And if it hadn't would you TNG and DS6

afficianadoes have had your spin-off series to enjoy? It's debatable...

I submit that if Gene Roddenberry wasn't the prime contender for the title of Mr Star Trek, William Shatner would be. We owe him, ladies, gentlemen and Klingons. Let's not forget it.

I rest my case.



TEST TUBE SPOCK?

by Jacqueline Y Comben

Gloria Fry was by no means the first to suggest that Spock was created by genetic manipulation - the ultimate in 'designer babies'! Is this really so likely?

One can understand how the notion arose. Any species-cross is so wildly unlikely that some sort of explanation for Spock's existence was clearly needed. Recently, TNG has, to some extent, dealt with the problem by means of the 'Preservers', having already added Klingon-Human crosses to the cast list. Clearly, no test tube was involved in that crossing, so we are asked to believe that, either Klingons are much more similar to Humans than are Vulcans, or that differences in body chemistry and even chromosome shape are no impediment to successful reproduction, given that all humanoid species originated from one root stock.

Unfortunately, this last premise is untenable. Here on Earth, we know that chimpanzees are extremely close to Humans, from a genetic viewpoint. Perhaps, in fact, a Human and a chimp might be able to produce viable progeny, although no one is likely to try it. However, genetically, Humans are descended from the same root as all other primates, and chimps and gorillas, for example, are similarly close, yet no mixed offspring are known. Horses can mate with donkeys, but not, so far as we can tell, with cows. Dogs cannot mate with cats. In genetic terms, a green blooded Vulcan or cerise blooded Klingon is far more different from a red blooded Human than is a cow, never

mind a gorilla. Moreover, the offspring of horse and donkey is sterile, so not only would we expect Spock to be similarly limited, but also Alexander's mother; so the story of the Preservers does not really deal with the problem.

Despite the fact that I suspect there is no scientifically valid explanation for Spock or Alexander, I do not subscribe to the notion that Sarek and Amanda used a test tube and a group of genetic engineers to provide themselves with a son. It might be argued that, by their century, it will be technically possible. Classic Trek tells us that, at one stage, men like Khan will be manufactured, so perhaps the gene mapping is to be presumed, but would Amanda take advantage of such, by her time, universally condemned procedures? I do not believe she would. It does not fit anything we know of her character or of her feelings for her son. Would she even have wanted a child, knowing how hard it would be for a species-cross to fit in on Vulcan?

What of Sarek? What of Vulcans in general? I am willing to accept that curious Vulcan scientists might map their genes, simply because it is satisfying to solve a puzzle of such complexity, so the data would be available. However, I find it difficult to imagine vegan, ethical Vulcans 'designing babies'. Logically, the removal of a single gene carrying a genetic defect would be desirable, but the risk of disastrous mistakes in any more complex procedures would

mitigate against such experimentation. On the road to Khan, there would be many horrendous failures, since knowing that a particular gene is involved in, say, physical strength is not the end of the story. It would be all too easy to remove the vital along with the unwanted, or to add the unwanted along with the desired.

Even if both Human and Vulcan had been completely gene mapped, the problem of designing a viable cross is a whole new ball game. How, for example, do you ensure that the baby has green blood based on copper without a competing set of cells in the bone marrow trying to make haemoglobin? If one species carries its heart in the location chosen by the other for the liver, how do you ensure that no confusion occurs? I am not a biologist and would be interested in comments from those better qualified than I to extrapolate from current knowledge in this field, but I suspect that production of a 'designer species-cross' would require more years of work than Amanda had lived when Spock was born, certainly more years than she had been married. Moreover, it would be necessary to produce vast numbers of failures, grown to considerable size, to determine dominance factors. Would Vulcans, with their respect for life, willingly engage in such work? Would Amanda agree?

I have always presumed that, when they married, Sarek and Amanda accepted that they would remain childless and that they were considerably surprised when it transpired that Amanda was pregnant. I presume that Spock was the many-billions to one, almost impossible accident - a product of random circumstances operating almost

incredibly in his favour. I presume that his parents were shocked and very worried, since they must surely have realised the likelihood of any child having some major defect. Examination would have revealed that his blood chemistry was unlike that of Amanda (in fact, it is another miracle that he could grow past the stage of a few cells and be successfully implanted and nourished at all). I, therefore, presume that he was removed at a very early stage and placed in a complex life-support module, a kind of artificial womb, geared especially for his needs, as these became clear. His carers would have been prepared for him to fail to develop properly, for no differentiation to occur, or for competing organs to arise, and would have warned his parents of this likelihood. It would have been not unlikely for him to develop two livers and two hearts, or two livers and no heart. Even such apparently simple items as arms and legs might well not have been formed. The taking of a drug by the mother can stop a Human baby from developing limbs, when all the genes are correctly interacting. In Spock's case, the chances of this interaction being correct were vanishingly small. It will have been a long time before his parents ceased to have concern about him - each little development, even after his birth, would be greeted with considerable relief. Interestingly enough, this would have been just as true if he had been manufactured in a test tube, which is one reason why I do not believe his parents would have considered the idea of having a baby so produced.

I continue to believe that Spock was an incredibly unlikely fluke, not a 'designer baby'. What do you think?



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ALIEN SEX APPEAL

or he has the cutest bumps

by Judith Taylor

Hands up all you males and females out there who fancy any of the many non Humans in the Star Trek world. I myself must admit to my own passing fancy. But why? Why are people being lulled by these nonexistent beings? I have put together a list that I hope covers most of the recurring characters that I have found to have a profound effect on my friends.

The first alien seen in Star Trek has to be Mr Spock. Although half Human he has a Vulcan father and has been brought up in the Vulcan way. Spock has been the centre of adulation on and off the screen. His upswept eyebrows and pointed ears give his face a strangely handsome look. Is it the challenge of breaking his stoic control over his emotions that make women go wobbly at the knees?

What about the Tribble? True it is not loved in the same way but it is cute enough to constitute part of this list. A furry blob that purrs, eats and multiplies. Is it just the cute appeal that make these animals lovable to non Klingons?

Data is another being that is causing groups of women everywhere to swoon. Is it because he is a machine, is the thought of finding out just how fully functional he is what makes women fight for this man? Or is it the child in him that makes women want to mother him?

Worf is perhaps the most surprising to most people. An unlikely candidate for sex idol, or is he? A fine figure of a Klingon, honourable, strong and to some people handsome - what more could a woman want?

What about Odo? A seemingly unapproachable being, he isn't interested in sex or any kind of relationship except perhaps friendship. Are women attracted to him because of this? A challenge, similar to that of a Vulcan, try to be the first to make

him go wobbly at the knees?

Certainly the most very unlikely candidate for this list is the Ferengi Quark. He is a cheat and a profiteer who has probably sold his own mother for a profit. But he does have a set of ethics and in Ferengi eyes is a very honourable being. For any lady who has eyes for a good bargain he's defiantly top of the list.

Of course these are only the male non-Humans; there are also a great many non-Human females.

Deanna Troi. Beautiful and exotic she is also a fine figure of a woman, with brains, wit and charm. It is not surprising she has a large following.

The Deltan Ilia, certainly exotic and like her species sexually uninhibited.

Kira Nerys, second in command of Deep Space Nine, is a definite challenge to any male. A strong-willed woman who is used to a fight, she has a soft and kind side to her nature. When she lets her shields down she is a very vulnerable female. She is also beautiful and could be even more so if she wanted to.

How about Dax? Strong like Kira, but more feminine. Aloof like a Vulcan but warmer. Pretty and seemingly perfect, smart and has three hundred years of experience to call on.

Perhaps like Worf an unlikely pair of sex idols may be the Duras sisters. But they are strong, well endowed and perfect for the man who wants a little life put in to a relationship.

This is only a small list that I compiled from my friends. There are many other characters in the Trek world who have such followings. Perhaps it's because they are the

ideal dream of the ideal partner. Perhaps it's the fact that you can never have them themselves. Or is it that they seem so perfect on the programme?

☆☆☆☆

ER - WOULD SOMEONE TEACH ME STANDARD PLEASE

by Gaile Wood

This business of DNA and RNA as a method of transferring language has been causing me a few problems, so much so that I thought I would actually examine it to see if there was any feasibility in it as a hypothesis or not. Well, after much poring over Biochemistry books, and beating of the head against a hard surface, I am pleased to report back... NOT!

What I found out was simply that as a tool for the SF writer it holds a great deal of attraction, but that's all it could ever be. Basically what we are talking about here is the insertion of *foreign* DNA codes into an organism that already has its genetic structure predetermined by millions of years of evolution. This word 'foreign' is an important one, as life on Earth has a genetic code that is universal and has remained invariant. Nearly all of the amino acid substitutions that cause the difference in species can be accounted for by a change in a single base.

The first problem would be for a geneticist to design a synthetic mRNA that would not be rejected by the host organism when it tries to insert the new sequence into the existing one (and we *are* taking about genetic material from a non-Human species), so I'll try to put forward some of the difficulty in achieving these ends with an explanation... Messenger RNA is only one of three major types of ribonucleic acid in cells, though each of these three occurs in multiple forms, and is made in the nucleus during the process of transcription (to carry a message from DNA to RNA through the synthesise of an enzyme). The sequence of bases in one strand of chromosomal DNA is enzymatically transcribed as mRNA, which then passes into the cytoplasm and then to ribosomes, where it serves as the template for

the sequential ordering of amino acids during the biosynthesis of proteins. Each protein - and there are thousands - is coded by a specific mRNA or segment of an mRNA molecule (see what I mean about the head beating?) So, consider the trouble of getting Terran genetic material to accept something alien, and the reaction caused when simple (relatively) tissue matching is bollixed up on a fairly regular basis. In effect, it seems to me you would have to create a type of cancer and, as we all know, uncontrolled cell multiplication is invariably fatal, so although you might be able to talk Vulcan it ain't much good if you're dead.

Diane Duane postulated that the transfer of the language made McCoy violently ill which could point towards, perhaps, a viral infection of some kind. A virus, huh? I chased that one round for a while, but came to the conclusion it wouldn't work either. There has been a lot of work done on genetic material using phages (basically a capsule, usually viral, containing DNA or RNA) for the most part, to determine the sequence of amino acids and to see how changes in said would affect the organism by way of mutation. And, although we know not all mutations are fatal (hang on, more head beating stuff about to be regurgitated!) the ones we're talking about here are. There are four major kinds of mutation in DNA; transitional, transversional, insertion and deletion. The former two are relatively benign as they result in the replacement of only one amino acid in the peptide chain (literally a chain of amides formed by the condensation of certain amino acids), but insertion or deletion cause all the DNA beyond the point of mutation to be misread so most, if not all, of the proteins synthesised by that particular organism would be faulty, and therefore fatal. Also

there is a mechanism whereby invading or foreign DNA from another species may be destroyed to prevent its replication, transcription or incorporation into the host cell genome. It's a combination of two enzymatic processes called modification and restriction, and I promise not to try and explain this one... but anyway, it exists.

There are other problems too. What about tRNA, rRNA, polymerase (one of the enzymes used during transcription, and there are not just two, but *three*, not to mention DNA ligase), and the specific ribosomes where RNA is de-coded? Hell's bells, the whole thing is a nightmare, and totally impossible, though if anyone thinks differently I'd like to hear their idea.

Finally, if language was genetic then a child adopted at birth from, say, China into a middle-class English nuclear family would, then, logically speak Chinese (or a dialect of). They don't, which means language is an acquired skill. There is other evidence to back this up, such as the case of Jeannie, an American child who had limited social contact with another Human until she was 13

years old. It is a very famous case, and she was studied extensively by many psychologists and 'ologists' in other fields. (Or, for example, the many notable cases of profoundly deaf children who acquire sign language skills at an equal and sometimes greater rate than hearing children.) What they concluded was that there seems to be an upper age limit by which we *all* acquire language skills, including the one native to us. Which explains why small sprogs exposed to a bi-lingual environment will pick up both languages reasonably easily. It also tells us why adults find it so much more difficult, and if I'm not careful I shall digress into talking about how most learning is a series of random actions that is reinforced by repetition. Neural pathways, Pavlovic responses, and so on...

To finish (hooray!), what this means to you and me is simply that we're going to have to get on with the time-honoured tradition of pulling out our fingers and doing it the hard way. In other words (no pun intended): You wanna speaka da Vulcan? Go to lessons!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE TROUBLE WITH TRILLS

by James C. Connarty

"These are creatures who are kind of average humans, who realize that the symbiotic joining brings them higher intellect, longevity and structure to their lives, where before the joining, there wasn't any." - Michel Horvat, writer of "The Host"

Whatever your own personal feelings towards the Trill, you must admit that their introduction to Trek-continuity has been the catalyst for a multitude of lively discussions. The gender-switching debate aside, one of the most intriguing reactions from fans is to regard the trill-joining as a form of slavery. Not surprisingly some people were perturbed to see such acceptance of an apparent slave-race - one fan expressed his view that the Trill were "...against everything that Star Trek stands for." It seems that fans

have divided into two camps - love'em or hate'em! Personally I favour the former of the two.

I do however understand the reservations some fans have regarding the nature of the Trill. Star Trek has a tradition of similar creatures who existed in a parasitic/mind-control relationship - the creature Khan uses to control Chekov in STII, and the aliens from TNG's first season episode "Conspiracy" - both show certain tenuous similarities to the symbiotic part of the Trill, in form as well as function.

In a way, the whole problem stems from the way the joined-species was introduced. We first encountered the Trill in the fourth season episode, "The Host", which

revolved around the exchanging of hosts of the Trill Odan, and his relationship with Beverly Crusher. While an excellent episode in itself, "The Host" did present a confusing picture of the new species, ambiguities in the way the exchange/joining worked giving rise to the cry of "Slavery". The first was the way Odan's personality was definitely portrayed as being the dominant one when in the body of Riker. The second, the way that Crusher reacted to Riker/Odan. She recognises that the essence of Odan is within Riker; if this segment of the episode has a message it is that the outer form is less important than the personality. It is this sense that the host is less important than the symbiont which may be to blame for the controversy which surrounded this episode.

Although I loved the idea of the Trill, I was disappointed with their debut episode, but then no Trek aliens have ever been best represented by their first appearance. All the most popular races on Star Trek have developed over time - some hardly resembling their original conception at all! I was pleased to see that a Trill had been included as one of the regulars on DS9, and looked forward to seeing the character of Jadzia Dax, and the Trill as a race, developed in more detail. I'm still looking forward to that!

Unfortunately Dax seems to be the character who suffered most from Season One growing pains. I had high hopes that we would see the background of the Trill explored, to a greater or lesser extent, but alas that was not to be. It seems to me that Dax has gone the same way as Troi did in the first season of Next Gen - including the character sounded like a great idea at the time, now what do we do with her! Terry Farrell has already won me over with that faintly-amused, tolerant smile, but if she's not careful it could become overused and corny - not unlike Troi's "Pain...Pain...I sense great Pain!"

The DS9 episode which offered the most hope was "Dax". This delving into Dax's past, albeit in Curzon's lifetime, was the perfect opportunity to explore her character and at the same time explain the symbiotic

relationship. But infuriatingly Dax's "vow of silence" prevented us from any insight as to how she felt and what drives her character, as "Past Prologue" and "Duet" did for Kira. While it did inform us about some of the mechanics of the symbiont/host relationship I feel it didn't go far enough; at the end of season one, although I like the character, I was left feeling disappointed that one of the most potentially interesting characters is the most underdeveloped.

This, of course, leaves plenty of room for improvement in Season Two, considering all the areas left untouched. The episode "Dax" suggested that Jadzia's personality is different from Curzon's, but in what ways? Sisko still has a lot to learn about his "new friend" Jadzia - Great, but why didn't we see him exploring that new relationship? What about the problems of reconciling the buoyancy of Jadzia's youth with the wisdom & restraint of Dax - A problem for the actress perhaps. Dax is a walking contradiction, youth and age in one being.

Apart from Dax herself, the possibilities for exploring the Trill culture are enormous. We know that the two species on her planet joined in order to survive some "disaster", which would otherwise have resulted in their destruction, but we know little else about them. One area crying out for development is their lifecycle. The symbiont has a much greater lifespan than the host, but how long exactly? If the symbiont has a finite lifespan, ie is not immortal, how does the death of the symbiont affect the final host, given that neither can survive without the other 72 hours after joining? Also, if the lifespan is finite, how does the race continue? Presumably some sort of reproduction must take place, probably very rarely given the extent of the symbiont lifespan, but if the symbiont is neuter this can only be asexual reproduction of some form. How would this take place, inside the host?

Another intriguing possibility is how being a joined Trill would affect the biological offspring of the host body. Joined Trill must be capable of this as Dax tells Sisko that she has been a mother three times and a father twice, but would the offspring gain

only the characteristics from the host, or would some of the traits of the symbiont be passed on too?

What part do Joined Trill play in the society of their planet? Presumably there must be Unjoined Trill, as Dax says that many compete for the chance to become a host, and the host-lifeforms would probably reproduce more often than the symbionts - whether the symbiont-part are amused by biological attraction or not! How integrated

are the two groups - Joined & Unjoined - and if being a host is such a great honour does this infer a more privileged status for the Joined?

My advice to those fans who have expressed initial ambivalence towards the Trill - don't write them off yet, let's see how both they and Dax are developed. There is so much we don't know & so many possibilities to explore. I hope we see that exploration, if not in the shows then in the fanzines.

☆☆☆☆

RENE AUBERJONIS

by William Marsh

At the age of 16 Auberjonois began acting under the tutelage of a family friend, John Houseman. Soon after this, though, his father's job as a journalist led them to move from his native New York to London, England, where he continued his theatre training while completing high school. Auberjonois then decided to move back to the States for college, where he earned a BA in Drama from Carnegie-Mellon University of Pennsylvania.

Immediately after college Auberjonois started his theatrical career at the prestigious Arena Stage in Washington DC, but soon went on to help found the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, the Mark Taper Forum in LA, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music Repertory Company in New York.

His first appearance on Broadway was in *Coco*, alongside Katherine Hepburn, for which he won a Tony award. He has also earned Tony nominations for *Big River*, *The Good Doctor*, and most recently the hit musical *City of Angels*, as well as being honoured with Emmy nominations for his performances in ABC's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and his six-year run as Clayton Endicott III in the sitcom *Benson*.

Auberjonois has made a number of television appearances, including multiple roles on Showtime's *Faerie Tale Theatre*, and

guest spots on shows such as *Matlock*, *Civil Wars*, *LA Law* and the forthcoming telefilm *Wild Card*.

His big screen career has been equally as prominent as his career in the theatre and television. His film debut was in the Robert Altman classic *M*A*S*H*, and following this came *Brewster McCloud*, *The Hendenberg*, the 1976 remake of *King Kong*, *Police Academy 5*, and a string of other films.

No stranger to *Star Trek* either, he appeared in the director's cut of *STVI: The Undiscovered Country* as the traitor Colonel West. Although this was a small role for such an accomplished actor it led to a role on *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* as the mysterious Odo, who is in reality a mass of gelatinous liquid.

He has settled in to his seven-year contract for the series, but still admits that he hates the makeup needed which, although not obvious, is a more complex makeup that takes longer to apply than that of his screen 'rival' Armin Shimmerman; and he is on course to break Michael Dorn's world record for the longest time spent under heavy makeup.



ARMIN SHIMERMAN

by William Marsh

Born and raised in New Jersey, Shimerman never dreamed of being an actor until the age of 17, when he and his family moved to Los Angeles, where in an effort to make her son meet new people his mother enrolled him in a local drama group; he enjoyed it, and was found to be gifted.

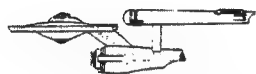
After graduating from the University of California Shimerman moved to New York, where he appeared in regional theatre productions for the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, The American Shakespeare Festival, and the New York Shakespeare festival.

Later he appeared on Broadway in I remember Mama, Broadway, St Joan and The Threepenny Opera before returning to Los Angeles to search for further work. Shortly after his move he luckily landed recurring roles in two CBS series, as Pascal in Beauty and the Beast, and as Cousin Bernard in Brooklyn Bridge. He gained other television credits for roles in LA Law, Married with Children and Who's the Boss.

Like Rene Auberjonois, Shimerman is no stranger to Star Trek, and for that matter the Ferengi, as he played Letek, the very first Ferengi encountered face to face by a Federation crew in TNG's The Last Outpost. He had made two uncredited appearances, one as a Ferengi Daimon in Peak performance, and as the animated head of the wedding box in the first season episode Haven.

These roles more than anything got Shimerman the role of Quark in DS9, which he nearly didn't accept because of having heavy makeup applied every working day; but he knew that if he played a role in Star Trek he would be remembered in years to come, which was not likely in any other series.

Shimerman has signed a seven-year contract for the series, and is proud to be part of the Star Trek phenomenon.



CAPTAIN KIRK

by Tracy Saunders



When we think of Captain Kirk, we think of a brave and dashing D'Artagnan of the space age. Gene Roddenberry decided, quite rightly, that there had to be a hero figure in Star Trek for a lot of female fans to admire.

We have been told a lot about Captain Kirk's character. We know that he treasures his friends and that he would give his own life for them if he had to. We are also aware that he is fond of the past and I think that is Gene's way of linking the character to our own time.

We look at Kirk and we see in him ourselves today. Kirk is a good Captain and

he does have a good sense of judgement. But as a lot of fans might agree, Kirk does occasionally let his 'fists fly' without thinking. One good example of this is in Shore Leave. I know that it was an old 'score' he had to settle, but I would have thought that he would have wondered how he had got there in the first place! But I would imagine that the alien race must have realised what each person's weaknesses must have been, as well as reading their minds.

As we all know, Kirk is not a defeatist. His love for the Enterprise is known to all. I have often wondered if he would ever put the Enterprise before his crew, and I have been proven wrong because of the destruction of

the Enterprise in Search for Spock. I wonder what other fans would think about this.

I wouldn't have thought that Kirk would have made a very good family man, even though he was genuinely disappointed that he didn't know that he had helped bring a child into the world. I find this part of Kirk very interesting, mainly because we see the 'softer' side of his character. Even if he did have a girl on every planet he visited, I do now believe that he had some feelings for them all, as was interpreted in that wonderful episode City on the Edge of Forever. I think that this episode shows the humanity of Kirk, that he could sacrifice the one he loved so that others could live.

Kirk has always been able to show that

he is in charge and that he is tough, but one episode shows the other side of Kirk again, and that is The Trouble With Tribbles - even though he tried to hide the fact that he really did like the tribbles! We are also shown that Kirk is upset because the tribbles were poisoned in the grain store.

I don't think that Kirk could ever be happy behind a desk and that is why he was delighted to be given a Starship back. I myself can see Kirk going on until he is either killed or forced to give up because of illness (for example).

I do hope that I have shown that there is a lot more to Kirk than the Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship, regardless of how important that is. Live long and prosper.

☆☆☆☆

WOULD YOU LET THESE PEOPLE RUN A STARSHIP?

by Michael Sadler

Article inspired by CHAINS OF COMMAND by Bill McCaig & Eloise Flood

The book starts off with an away team on a barren planet's surface. Within six pages, a crewmember under Riker's command has died. O.K., it was partly her own fault for taking her helmet off in the apparently safe atmosphere, but Riker didn't help matters by stopping to admire flowers, his girl friend and life in general while the girl screamed for his help and her face is bubbling away. Hey, but that isn't so bad because the girl had a plain face - she was a blonde blonde and, come to mention it, she was quite lucky, because she died quickly!

After this, the scene changes to Picard staring out of his window (for a change). Apparently, this time the reason is because he is bored and has nothing to do. Well, I don't know about you, but I call a parasite which does not show up on sensors and eats your crew into a pile of goop pretty darn interesting!

Picard's boredom is broken by a cry of help from some Humans being kept as slaves by some birdlike creatures. Picard rushes to

the icy planet at one quarter impulse speed (well, there's no hurry, is there?)

Riker and an away team beam down to investigate. As soon as they arrive they get their bottoms kicked by the warders of the slaves with security guard falling like flies. However, Riker and Co are saved by the slaves who wade in and help them.

It is at this point we are filled in on details of what's going on by the leader of the rebel slaves.

It was here that I noticed some similarities in a character. The rebel leader was a descendant of a group of people who had escaped from the Eugenics Wars on Earth: he is called Kotan, has blond swept-back hair and half of his face is scarred. The setting is underground tunnels on an icy, barren planet, and Kotan with his piercing hypnotic gaze is wielding a running red laser cutter. If this character is not like Khan with a mixture of ST VI settings thrown in then I would be an inordinately startled person!

O.K. We have now learned in the book that the Humans have been the bird creatures' slaves for centuries, and endured just about everything you can imagine. They have now (without help!) overthrown their warders. However, with no way to leave the planet the rebel slaves have only one week before the bird creatures return to wipe them out.

From this point on, I could not understand the reactions of the Enterprise crew. Not one person showed compassion or sympathy for the things these people had gone through. If anything they were disapproving of the rebel slaves and unwilling to see their viewpoint of the situation. I wanted to say, "Why aren't you helping these people?"

The scene changes and Picard and Crusher go on a tour of the captured base. During this time we come across the planet's 'doctor', who is a twelve-year-old boy who knows how to wrap bandages. Currently he is treating a man with a large gash wound from an ice pick. After the boy smears some homemade paste into the wound and feels the man's head for a fever, Dr Crusher pats the boy on the shoulder and says that he did a fine job! This from a woman who holds in her hand the equipment to cure the wound painlessly in seconds. Hmmmm. Fine job!

Dr Crusher continues to treat this boy like a baby, constantly ruffling his hair and comparing him to Wesley when he was young - even though he is a twelve year old, born into slavery, who has seen more than his fair share of pain and suffering and does not blink at the task of treating wounded men with his bare hands; not to mention the fact that he was a spy for the rebel slaves.

Does this obviously mentally scarred boy receive a visit from our friendly Counselor? You must be joking! Instead he is patted on the head and sent off to do errands for the landing party.

With now a couple of days to go until the bird creatures come back in their massive ships to obliterate the rebel slaves, Picard decides to set up a few plastic igloos, because

it's a bit chilly for the away team. No mention is made that it would be a darn sight colder digging away at the planet with an ice pick, with no thermal clothes and somebody using nerve disrupter on you. What a hard life Picard and Co have - "sigh".

With the impending doom facing the rebel leader and his seven hundred men and Picard's unwillingness to help the other thousands of Human slaves on other bird creature run planets, the rebel leader is forced to take action.

He kidnaps Picard and Troi from one of the igloos (after all, Troi wasn't doing much anyway). This single act of desperation causes quite a reaction from the Enterprise crew. They think the act is so terribly dreadful that it is below contempt. Honestly, I don't know what they expected the rebel leader to do. The crew don't care that these people have been slaves for generations, but when it comes to two crewmembers being kidnapped, "Hey, those people are evil, arm photon torpedoes, call the fire brigade, DON'T PANIC!" From being a hero the rebel leader is now portrayed as a nasty criminal with no morals at all.

Right. While kidnapped, Picard stumbles across some other birdlike creatures who have been living on the ice planet for thousands of years and who are related to the bird creatures who have the Humans as slaves.

Meanwhile the bird creatures have turned up in their massive ships (approx. 7 times bigger than Enterprise) with missiles that would just laugh at the shields. These guys are serious - e.g. they secrete hormones which knock people out and render them helpless.

At this point the rebel leader is still asking for help and Riker is running round wondering what to do.

Luckily the day is saved when Picard beams up with the long-lost bird creature that he found. The bird creatures forget they were about to wipe out the Humans. A birdtype ambassador is called in from the

Federation and everyone lives happily ever after. Even the twelve-year-old boy is going to be all right because one of the birds is going to teach him to be a real doctor.

As my last paragraph is trying to show, the book ends far too quickly and nicely. The attitudes of all the people involved are unsatisfactory to me.

After generations of slavery and being willing to die for their freedom, the slaves are now 'good old mates' with the bird creatures - who, incidentally, never even said "sorry" for their actions.

Without being flippant and with respect to all people involved, I myself compared the events in the book to something like Spartacus (with Kirk Douglas) or the Jewish people who were in the German concentration camps. I know that it must take a very strong person to forgive those who have oppressed him (her) for so long without remorse; however at the end of the book *everyone* is happy and friends; it is as if nothing bad ever happened.

I would also like to point out that if the rebel leader hadn't kidnapped Picard he

would never have found the long-lost bird creatures and every Human would be dead.

I quite enjoyed the book, apart from its ending, because it showed the characters of The Next Generation perfectly. It was also easy to visualise; title like Chain of Attack; it had the birds from Dreams of the Raven; it had Khan's character; the setting of Rura Penthe, etc. Perhaps if anyone saw the crew do anything good in the book they could write in saying what it was?

Lastly - if Geordi explains to anyone else how his VISOR works. I think I will scream. Kirk never went around telling anyone how a tricorder worked!

Seriously, though - on a different note, I hope I'm not biased against the Next Gen, and would be glad to hear someone say that a Next Gen book is brilliant, but I found the five Next Gen books I have read to be not very good (pretty naif, in fact) compared to the fifty or so Original Trek books I've read - eg Data playing baseball - very exciting. I discovered a lot of new civilisations in *that* book! Given the number of Next Gen books available, I can't have picked just the turkeys. Comments, anyone?



DEEP SPACE 9 vs BABYLON 5: A CASE FOR COMPARISON?

by Lorraine Goodison

Gene Roddenberry's vision of a benevolent future has endured on TV and cinema screen for over 25 years, seeing off all comers. Now, with a rival vision beginning its run on Channel 4, it is tempting to compare Babylon 5 with the latest runner from the Star Trek stable, Deep Space 9. How does the 'new kid on the block' stand up to DS9's established format? Well, not too badly at all.

The first and most obvious difference is Babylon 5's setting. The 'last, best hope for peace' in a sector recovering from war; this space station does not inhabit the more secure and safe environs of the Federation.

Rather, B5's Earth Alliance is harsher, with a militaristic regime and a Psi Corp which cynically exploits the rare talent of telepathy. No talk of scientific exploration or peaceful co-existence here, and I rather think a Prime Directive would be the last thing the Alliance would consider. The Alliance is struggling to survive and regards 'aliens' with suspicion, in contrast to DS9's more cosmopolitan and mature approach to 'out there'. This is not to say the Federation does not have a military side; who fought the Cardassians, Klingons and Romulans? DS9, however, possesses no obvious military deterrent, despite being in a strategic position. I wonder if the mysterious Dominion will force the Federation to

respond more directly?

Babylon 5 seems to dip into the rich soup of 'hard' science fiction more than Deep Space 9, but this may be deceptive. Although two of Star Trek's main 'mcguffins' - warp speed and transporters - have no basis in known scientific fact at present, many of the familiar background ideas are, and continue to be, possible. It is nice, however, to see the use of L5 space stations, the 'drop' ship launch and star gates in B5 as opposed to DS9's established designs. In some ways, B5 may be considered the early days of the Federation, after the Eugenics wars, or the first Romulan attacks.

Character-wise, there are some similarities in each station's crew. Take the two commanders, for instance. Both have a 'history', although Sinclair's (war pilot, mysterious black-out) is deeper than Sisko's so far. Both are 'doers', preferring to get out there and tackle the problem personally. Unfortunately, the writers of DS9 seem to have forgotten this aspect of Sisko's nature and leave him sitting in the wings far too often.

The second-in-commands are in a similar vein also; both aloof and private, assertive women who pride themselves in their work and have little personal life.

Ivanova, while quite controlled, has potentially the same amount of passion as Kira.

Security Chiefs Odo and Garibaldi are chalk and cheese. Odo - focused, determined, centred in his sense of justice - would have little in common with 'Bruce Willis in outer space' Garibaldi.

Ambassador Lando is B5's nearest equivalent to Quark, as they frequently provide light relief. Lando's instinct for self-preservation is, however, touched with a brittle pride, unlike Quark who lives by his own code and gambles accordingly.

Each series has its strengths and weaknesses, although I feel Babylon 5 got off to a stronger start than Deep Space 9. This may be due to DS9's need to be linked to TNG and Star Trek and an unwillingness to alienate an established audience. In season two, there are attempts to carve a personal niche and I suspect Voyager will go further along the 'gritty' path. Whatever develops, I hope Babylon 5 gets more of a chance than the original Star Trek did to explore its possibilities. With a five-year story arc and subtle sub-plots to give meat to the bones, it deserves to survive. There is room on our small screens for a companion enduring world of Star Trek.



☆☆☆☆

The Perfect Mate

by Carol Sterenberg

IDIC readers have recently been pondering the question of Spock's attractiveness to women. There are, of course, as many reasons as there are women who find him attractive, but I have my own pet theory and I'd like to share it, in the full knowledge that a dozen readers will probably be shooting me down in flames in the next N/L.

If Spock's your favourite character from Classic Trek, I wouldn't mind betting that you like Data too. Let me explain. Although Spock and Data are opposites in

many ways, they do share one very strong characteristic. Both, on the surface, and compared to the average Human, are very short on emotions. So what is it that attracts us to these very undemonstrative, rather distant men?

I have recently re-read a book I've found very helpful over the years, 'Women Who Love Too Much' (Robin Norwood, Arrow Books). The topic of this self-help book is the addiction of certain women for relationships which are 'unsuitable' to a greater or lesser extent with men who, for

instance, are addicted to drugs or alcohol, or unreliable, cruel, indifferent, emotionally damaged, 'absent' or withdrawn.

As Robin Norwood explains, (and here I paraphrase somewhat) women who were unable in childhood to change their parent(s) into the warm, loving caretaker(s) they longed for, respond deeply in adulthood to the familiar type of emotionally unavailable men whom they can again try to change through their love. They try to compensate for the past in the present, replicating the struggle for love, attention and approval. To obtain these freely from a kind, stable, reliable man doesn't count - they have to be extracted from a man unable readily to give them (because of his own psychological makeup).

You may think this is farfetched, but I'm convinced the theory is a good one, because up until fairly recently I was stuck in the habit myself. The trouble is, men like this are such a challenge! Here is a man who does not feel emotions. I can be the one to show him how, the one who'll warm him up, thaw him out... Does this sound familiar?

Of all the 'Data' episodes, the one which causes the most howls of rage is 'In Theory', with most people irritated by behaviour they perceive as 'out of character' on Data's part, and many wanting to give Jenna a good shake for throwing away an apparently ideal relationship with Data.

And yet, here are Brent's comments about the episode: 'I played the 'perfect mate', programming myself with all of the cliches and attributes of what Data would think would be the perfect male partner for a woman... I loved it.' Elsewhere, he comments that the episode is not really a 'Data' segment, but about the sort of woman who relates only to a certain type of man - emotionally barren - and that, in Data, she has reached the absolute limit of this predilection.

So it seems that he has, with his usual perceptiveness, hit the nail on the head, and managed to get beyond the superficial irritations of this episode to its true subject

matter.

Until Data came on the scene, my favourite character of all was Spock. I still have a soft spot for Spock, but Data really is perfection for someone who, like myself, is or has been drawn towards those wonderfully-compelling emotional challenges. Of course, there are positive reasons for fantasising about either of them as a mate - reasons too many to enumerate. But top of my 'hidden agenda' is their emotional inaccessibility.

There's no risk of emotional intimacy with such a man. I think this was Spock's powerful attraction for Chapel. Cut to the quick by the terrible end of Roger Corby, she transferred her affections to Spock, a 'safely' unattainable man. I don't think she ever seriously expected her intatuation with him to lead to a relationship, but if it had, such a relationship would have offered her tremendous potential to struggle for his love.

When Jenna breaks the news to Data that they are finished as a couple, she tells him it's because nothing she can do can touch him in any way. I don't think she's being honest with him - and maybe not with herself either. Jenna expected to get a man who was emotionally unavailable, emotionally distant. However, what she actually ended up with was a man who changed the very way he thought (his programming) to accommodate her. Not only this but he nurtured her in the way he considered appropriate (tidying up her quarters for her). And although we see nothing of their physical relationship, we can guess he's trying very hard to please in that area too. Lucky Jenna!

But that wasn't part of the bargain.

Jenna is probably experiencing 'boredom' due to a lack of 'challenge' and 'struggle' in their relationship, which translates (for her) to a lack of excitement, and which alone would validate a relationship for her, and make it feel worthwhile.

She is probably also feeling acute discomfort with her role in their relationship.

She started out with a great challenge ahead of her: to 'fix' Data's emotional defects: and with a guarantee of his distance and unattainability. Jenna saw Data as an emotional virgin; she was the one who had experience of relationships. Data was thus nonthreatening. She knew that his emotional needs were nonexistent and that he would make no demands on her. She chose him because she didn't want to risk intimacy. When he surprised her by his responsiveness, she fled into emotional withdrawal for self-protection since her role then became unclear

and she was confused, and unable to accept the attention she thought she craved.

The accustomed discomfort of struggle was what she found comfortable and familiar, and the discomfort of ease, attention and acceptance was even more difficult to bear.

Data, just as he was, was Jenna's perfect mate. Impossible as it might seem, what he turned himself into was too much of a good thing.

☆☆☆☆

COMMANDABILITY

In Defence of Lieutenant Commander Deanna Troi

by Marie I J Park

Having read through the article by Edward Woo on Ensign Ro Laren (N/L 29), what struck me as being of particular interest were his views concerning Ro's behaviour in the episode Disaster.. The statement "*She even had the nerve to challenge Counselor Troi's ability to command during this emergency*" did not sit at all well with me. While I will concede the fact that Troi is not normally asked to take the centre seat at any one time before Disaster, does that make her any less capable of command decisions should it become necessary for her to do so? I, for one, don't think so; the following article will describe two examples where Troi was faced with the prospect of making command decisions.

The first such example was the episode Disaster; although Picard had originally left Lt Munro in charge of the bridge, when Munro was killed in the subsequent emergency Ro Laren *would* have assumed authority if Chief O'Brien had not pointed out that "Counselor Troi's rank is, in fact, Lieutenant-Commander". O'Brien *hadn't*, by any means, suggested that Troi was in charge, but had simply stated, quite correctly, that Troi was the only senior officer on the bridge at the time. Therefore, by temporarily putting aside her role as Ship's Counselor, Lieutenant-Commander Deanna Troi assumed her new responsibilities as the *de facto*

commanding officer.

In assessing Ro's behaviour towards Lieutenant-Commander Troi, I found myself totally unimpressed. If anything, the attitude displayed by Ensign Ro Laren was not worthy of anything except my utmost disdain. She may be a Bajoran, but even that was, in my view, not sufficient to excuse her apparent inability not to question Troi's orders for the sake of argument. The last thing that a commanding officer needs in any form of crisis/emergency is blatant displays of insubordination; indeed, another bridge officer who encountered this form of behaviour was Lieutenant-Commander Data in Redemption II, which came in the form of Hobson's inability to serve on a vessel (the USS Sutherland) in which an android was the commanding officer.

In Disaster, Troi encountered that same problem in the form of Ro Laren, and Troi's patience was pushed sufficiently to warrant the necessity of putting her foot down. She already had her hands full with simply coping with the fact that her decisions carried consequences. That Ro couldn't stand playing second fiddle to Troi, I have absolutely no doubt. Her subsequent behaviour was not only detrimental to Troi's capabilities but also did very little to

contribute towards finding a solution to the problem at hand. Ro clearly didn't appreciate the dilemma that Troi was facing; does she separate the saucer section or wait it out? Although I will concede that Troi was taking an enormous gamble by *not* separating the saucer section from the stardrive, it was quite clearly a difficult decision for Troi to have made, plus the possibility that the two sections would not separate safely due to the magnitude of the problem must have been foremost on Troi's mind, thereby affecting her decision not to initiate separation. If she ended up slapping Ro down for her insubordination, then who could blame her? Ro had been asking for that with her constantly arguing with Troi's orders at every opportunity.

Needless to say, if Troi did take a gamble in this episode, then it had paid off when the antimatter container was stabilised by Commanders Riker and Data.

Face of the Enemy was the second example in which Troi found herself in a position of authority. Although the circumstances in this episode were totally different when compared with Disaster, Troi still found herself having to make command decisions. She had to impersonate Major Rikal of the Tol Shiar, whether she liked it or not; however, this fact did not stop Troi/Rikal from playing her role as the occasion had called for her to do so. Upon realising that the Tol Shiar were a force of intimidation and fear, she didn't hesitate to use that

knowledge to her advantage to ensure that the officers on the vessel that she was aboard would not dare to question her actions. Troi/Rikal understood that she had the authority over this particular crew, allowing her to intimidate them into obedience.

At the point where the Romulan vessel encountered the Enterprise, Troi/Rikal actually dared to force the Captain to stand down to enable her to take over the centre seat. This enabled her not only to complete her mission but to deal with Captain Picard, using diplomacy rather than aggression. However, she could be quite a formidable officer when the necessity called for it. She actually threatened Nevek that if he didn't listen to her and obey her, Troi/Rikal would have him exposed as a traitor and have him "ejected out into space" as she put it. And although her 'attack' on the Enterprise was not meant to cause the vessel any real damage, the fact that she could actually carry her order through is clearly not an action of an officer not capable of making command decisions.

Although Deanna Troi is not Jean-Luc Picard by any stretch of the imagination, she has proved both in Disaster and Face of the Enemy that she is capable of making command decisions. In both instances, when push came to shove, she made no attempt to shy away from her responsibilities and when her mind was made up she was unshakable in her conviction, in spite of anyone who would try to question her.



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME?

Trek Titles in Translation.

Jay Stevensen

Would you watch Revenge! Gas Monster? Or The Rock-Being of the Unidentified Planet? Or even Love at the Age of 6200? Doesn't sound like your kind of viewing?

You've probably seen them all -- unless you only ever watch TNG. They're not awful

second feature movies from the fifties but Japanese titles for Classic Trek's own Obsession, The Savage Curtain and Requiem for Methuselah. Japanese is a curiously compressed language with layers of hidden meaning so perhaps it's a bit unfair to literally turn these versions back into English again.....and European titles can be just as

awkward. You couldn't get much more cumbersome than Germany's Der Zentral-Nervensystem-Manipulator, better known to us as Dagger of the Mind

Some translated titles (these are Japanese, German and Italian) sound as if they should be anywhere but attached to a sci-fi series. Surely Kirk2=? belongs in one of those books designed to convince you that of course you could get into Mensa if you really wanted to. And Alice in Wonder Space, How Quickly Time Goes By and What is that Humming There? should obviously be playing on Broadway.

Dangerous Planet Girls belongs in a fleapit cinema. Shining Eyes is just waiting to be snapped up by Mills & Boon and Disciples of the Devil and Madman from the Devil by Hammer Films (they've probably used them already). Spock Under Suspicion and Kirk Under Accusation could be 23rd century rivals to The Mousetrap.

Sorted them out yet? They are, in the above order: The Enemy Within; I, Mudd; The Deadly Years; Wink of an Eye; That Which Survives; Where No Man....; And the Children Shall Lead; Dagger of the Mind; Balance of Terror and Court Martial.

Too easy? Try these:

1. Mystery in Space! Eat Out the Anger
2. The Planet of the Gorillas
3. First Year of Stardate 7:21
4. Implosion in the Spiral
5. The Year of the Red Bird
6. Spock Out of Control
7. Epigones
8. Since they are Human Beings
9. Top of the Iceberg
10. Order From Space, Strangle With Neckband
11. Crash with the One Celled Life Form
12. Energy at 160km Underground
13. A Prison for Kirk and Co.
14. Dangerous Little Animals

If you are one of those people who can remember the name of every minor planet the Enterprise by-passed at Warp 8 you won't have any difficulty with the titles on the next list. They may lack pizzazz but they contain all the clues.

1. Mystery on the Planet Pyris Seven
2. A Boy From the Planet Thasus
3. Operation for Zienite on the Planet Ardana
4. Medical Experimentation on Living Persons on Minara
5. Invasion of the Planet Orion
6. Confrontation on the Planet Cheron
7. Vampire on the Planet M-113
8. The Dictator of Beta Three
9. The Planet Scalos
10. Murder on the Planet Argellus
11. Course to Markus 12
12. Talos IV - Taboo
13. Parasites on the Planet Deneva

And to finish, one that sounds even better than the original: Trable S Tribbly. Czech for.....well, you know already. What could be nicer than that?

(Titles/translations from the list printed in STAG Newsletter 112)

ANSWERS Page 86



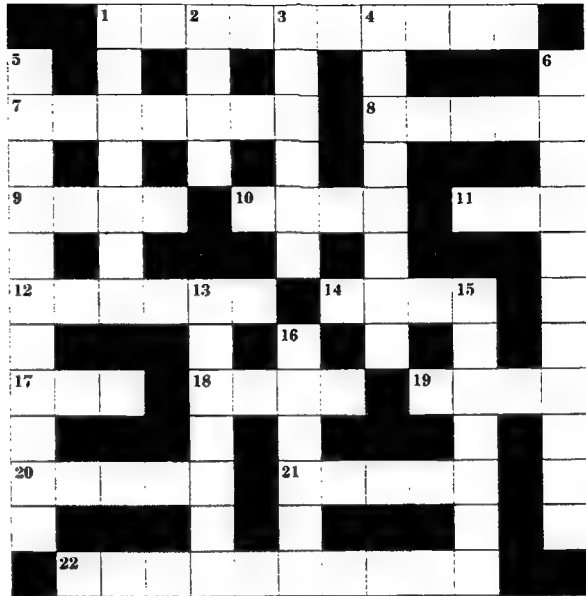
CROSSWORD

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Clues

Across

- 1) In this story Worf becomes Gowron's tactical adviser (10)
- 7) This zone was created to keep the Romulans at bay (7)
- 8) The captors of a jellyfish-like creature with which a station was built (5)
- 9) Fencing sword used occasionally by Picard (4)
- 10) The Red one lasted far longer than this (4)
- 11) To which degree Barclay's intelligence was increased (3)
- 12) Country of birth of William Shatner and James Doohan (6)
- 14) Killed by Riker to protect Chorgon (4)
- 17) Picard's favourite is Earl Grey (3)
- 18) Number of survivors of the Galileo near Murasaki (4)
- 19) The Horta protected itself with a powerful one (4)
- 20) On which planet Kirk met Captain Ronald Tracey (5)
- 21) The Enterprise was subjected to Eichner radiation near Station Sierra (5)
- 22) This was Enterprise NCC 1701-C (10)



- 15) The Enterprise crew was called this by Landru's people (7)
- 16) Hindi for 'incarnation', this was a giant snowflake (6)

RACES IN THE STAR TREK UNIVERSE

by Michelle Oldroyd

Down

- 1) Episode which marked the return of K'ehleir (7)
- 2) Where the Horta was described as a devil (4)
- 3) This creature took Kirk to the OK Corral (6)
- 4) Captain Kirk's middle name (8)
- 5) A joining of two things into one. This story did it in many ways. (11)
- 6) Tall, handsome black actor whose whole face is never seen (7,4)
- 13) Ship on which Kirk is trapped between universes (7)

1. Name the joined race.
2. Infertile due to radiation from the planet's shield.
3. Kevin Uxbridge's true race.
4. Aliens who went to great lengths to hide their existence; only Data knows about them.
5. Fought a war with the Promellians.
6. The logical race.
7. Tried to destroy Bajoran culture.
8. Race that was completely destroyed by the Douwd.
9. Telepathic race which Betazoids cannot read.
10. Real name of the 'Tin Man'.

ST THE NEXT GENERATION QUIZ

by David J Raper & Marie I J Park

- 1) a) How many times has Sarek been married?
- b) What were their names?
- 2) How many ships called Enterprise have there been by the time of TNG?
- 3) How many ships were lost at Wolf 359?
- 4) Which ship was Riker offered in The Best of Both Worlds, and what happened to it?
- 5) Which ship did Data command in Redemption II?
- 6) What was the name of Commander Sisko's ship at Wolf 359?
- 7) Name the Romulan senator in Unification.
- 8) Who rescued Data's brother after 3 years' drifting in space?
- 9) Who was responsible for Data losing his head in Disaster?
- 10) Name the ship in Night Terrors.
- 11) Who was Data's First Officer in Redemption II?
- 12) Which bridge officer did *not* get affected in The Naked Now?
- 13) Name Duras' son.
- 14) Who took over as First Officer aboard the USS Enterprise in Sins of the Father?
- 15) Who took over the Enterprise in The Nth Degree?
- 16) Name Chief O'Brien's former Captain.
- 17) On which Starship did Dr Pulaski serve before joining the Enterprise?
- 18) Who sent for Gowran and Duras in Reunion?
- 19) Who was Picard's 'cousin' in Clues?
- 20) In what episode did Ro Laren first appear?
- 21) Who was the weapons officer of the USS Stargazer in the Battle of Maxia?
- 22) Name Commander Riker's father.
- 23) "This above all, to thine own self be true".
a) Who said it?
b) Name the episode.
c) What had prompted this response?
- 24) Name Captain's Riker's son in Future Imperfect.
- 25) Who acted as father of the bride in Data's Day?
- 26) Who taught Noonian Soong 'everything he knew'?
- 27) What book did Worf give Data in The Measure of Man?
- 28) Which Klingon Captain punched Riker in the face?
- 29) "Welcome to the 24th century". This expression has been used twice in TNG.
a) Which two people spoke these words?
b) Name the episodes.
- 30) In the episode Neutral Zone what was the first thing Sonny L Q Clemens ordered from the replicator and why?
- 31) "We were... intimate." Who spoke these words and why the reluctance to reveal the information?
- 32) In which episode was Data believed to be 'dead'?
- 33) What did Q give to Data as a 'going away' present?
- 34) What does the acronym VISOR stand for?
- 35) "See you in 500 years, Picard."
a) Who said it?
b) In which episode were these words spoken?
c) What was Picard's reply?

Answers Page 87

☆☆☆☆☆

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



TRAITOR WINDS by LA Graf Pocket
Books 70 \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Worlds series. It is set towards the end of the period between the end of the 5-year mission and ST:TMP.

This is the third book in the Lost

Many of the crew of the Enterprise

have taken short-term assignments because they want to be reassigned to her after her refit. Chekov has gone for security training; Sulu is working as a test pilot - specifically testing a shuttle with a cloaking device installed; Uhura is lecturing, etc.

Then the plans for the cloaking device go missing, and Sulu is a prime suspect; Dr Piper, researching the Klingon disruptor, is killed and Chekov finds himself suspected. As they attempt to discover the real culprits, it begins to look as if the real target is Kirk, and the last place they can go for help is Starfleet Security.

All in all, I would say this is the best book of the three in the Lost Years series, and better than many of the recent Classic Trek novels. LA Graf is a writing partnership and the 'joins' in the writing don't show. They have crafted an interesting mystery (even though I did spot the villain about 50 pages before he was unmasked) built into an action-filled story. They have even come up with a valid reason for Chekov's transfer from navigation to security (ST:TMP) - something which always struck me as an odd sideways move for him. Many of the Enterprise regulars appear (except Spock, of course), albeit briefly, and the 'guest' characters are well drawn.

There is one character whose involvement troubled Chekov, and I wonder if, when this man was first introduced, he originally had a bigger part - Chekov's reaction seems just a little OTT with regard to someone he hardly knew, but it's perfectly possible that to keep to the allotted length the writer(s) had to cut a few pages and the scene in question was one that went. I'm also just a little iffy about the development of another character - there's a twist to this one which is in character - but I can't quite make up my mind whether in real life it would be entirely credible. I'd give this book 8.5 out of 10.

The cover art shows Sulu, Kirk and Chekov. Sulu is quite good. Chekov seems just a trifle out of proportion; and Kirk looks more like actor Frazer Hines than William Shatner. It has often been said that Kirk is very difficult to draw; most of the novel

covers that feature him seem to get the eyes right and the mouth hopelessly wrong!

ALL GOOD THINGS by Michael Jan Friedman TNG hardback \$20 (£17)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is the story of the last episode of TNG, originally written by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga. I'm not going to give any sort of plot rundown here, for the sake of those who prefer to see an episode without knowing what it's about, except to say that Q is in it and it is linked to Encounter at Farpoint; and repeat what has already appeared in at least one magazine, that Picard spends the episode time-hopping from past to present to future like a yo-yo. It's also obvious - because we all know he's in the movie - that Picard survives.

As always, although not too much is added, several of the scenes in the book aren't in the episode. I also find it odd that, when Moore and Braga have categorically said that they don't care for time travel stories, they have come up with a time travel story for the final one of TNG.

That aside - As an episode it may work, though it must have been a director's nightmare. As a book, the time-hopping - sometimes in segments as short as half a page - makes for very disjointed reading despite Mr Friedman's best efforts. I don't fault Mr Friedman for this; I'd guess it was quite a difficult episode to novelise.

There are books that you can put down and pick up again the next day without losing the thread of what's happening; because of its very segmented nature this isn't really one of them. On the other hand, I didn't find it so enthralling that it was a "Read at a sitting because I must find out what happens on the next page" type of story. The potential catastrophe is so extreme that it's obvious right from the start that Picard is going to resolve the problem - the only question is how; but that is the fault of the basic premise, not the writer who was given the job of novelising it.

In short, I'd give the neat way Mr

Friedman slipped from one time segment to another a generous 7 out of 10. On all other counts, I'd say not more than 5; for example, from the blurb on the back cover - Q says, "(For) seven years... We've been) watching you... hoping your apeline race would demonstrate some growth..." Come on! Seven generations, maybe, would show some growth; but seven years?

Q-SQUARED by Peter David Simon & Schuster TNG hardback £9.99
Reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

This is a long story (434 pages). In his introduction David warns the reader that it is the most complicated novel he has ever produced and I would certainly agree.

The front cover pictures Picard between Q and Trelane but otherwise gives nothing away. The first page, however, has the most powerful 'hook' of any TNG novel; Captain Jack Crusher is discussing the arrival of his ex-wife, Dr Beverly Howard, with his Number One, Commander Jean-Luc Picard!

This is track A of a 'multiverse' story. Q explains:

"There is no such thing as a universe, instead there is a multiverse where one of the true constants is chaos. The core fabrics of reality exist in the Heart of the Storm - tap into that power and nothing can stop you."

And Trelane, The Squire of Gothos, one-time opponent of James T Kirk and god-son to Q has tapped into the Heart of the Storm, deliberately causing three time-lines to converge. Chaos rules OK and Trelane sits back to enjoy the show.

Between them, Q and Picard (our Picard) have to sort it out and meanwhile we are witness to some interesting scenarios: Jean-Luc and Beverly in bed; Mrs D Riker and her son Tommy, talk to Counselor Troi; Wes encounters a dead father and a mother who doesn't know him; Worf teams up with Lt Yar once again, and so it goes on. This plot doesn't thicken, it boils and overflows. There's enough lust, rage, paranoia and betrayal to produce a satisfactory body count

before Picard and Q finally triumph. The survivors are returned to their respective time lines (or universes) with only one minor discrepancy. Oops!

This is definitely one of David's darker stories but even so his sense of humour creeps in. Who else would bring Winnie-the-Pooh onto the Enterprise? The characterisation of Q is excellent, as always, and he skilfully alters the familiar faces to make it possible to follow them (just) when the time lines converge.

My one disappointment was in David's version of Jack Crusher. I have always imagined the Crusher/Picard relationship to be similar to the enduring friendship between Kirk and Spock. Mr David obviously disagrees, so that despite his pivotal role Crusher is an unsympathetic character. As a result the Crusher/Howard/Picard plot lacks the intensity and angst we saw between Riker and Troi in *Imzadi*.

Nevertheless, this is an immensely enjoyable and riveting read.

Caution: do not approach this novel unless and until you are familiar with *The Squire of Gothos*, *Yesterday's Enterprise* and *Parallels*. *Alice Through the Looking Glass* might be a good idea too.

8 out of 10, Peter. Keep 'em coming!

Q-SQUARED by Peter David Simon and Schuster hardback £9.99.
Reviewed by John Snelling

Imagine a story which takes you from "Where No Man Has Gone Before" to "Yesterday's Enterprise", throws in a few alternate timelines involving a Deanna Troi-Riker (with little Tommy, their son) where Will Riker has been imprisoned and tortured by the Romulan/Cardassian alliance for 8 years, Jack Crusher as Captain of the Enterprise, with Picard as his number one and Bev Crusher as his CMO and ex-wife. Also add a little spice by introducing the Squire of Gothos, from TOS, and "Q", and a holodeck fencing simulation with Commodore Hikaru Sulu. Mix together in

exactly the right quantities to give a time paradox story with no loose ends and how can you possibly go wrong?

I'll tell you how. You can write an excellent story, with superb continuity - definite echoes of "Imzadi" - and then depart from the Gene Roddenberry ethos of Trek.

Peter David is such an excellent author of Trek material, I have thoroughly enjoyed every book he has written set in the Trek universe - until now! I love Star Trek, and particularly time-travel related stories, and derive immense pleasure from puzzling out theories and ideas within the text of the story, but when characters with whom you have become familiar depart from the expected norms then the enjoyment rating starts to fall.

I can acknowledge that if a major character is overcome by an exterior force they can act out of character, but when the consequences of that act are then emphasised and glorified then I feel that you move from one realm of literature to another, i.e. Trek to Stephen King. That is what happens within this story. One of the reasons for Trek's longevity is the fact that whilst being suitable viewing for all age groups some of its storylines are commentaries, or demand a response on a deeper level, about the world we live in today.

There are scenes in the book which feature characters being dropped down a turbo lift shaft and their subsequent broken bodies being paraded in Ten Forward. There is another scene where Picard and Beverley are observed "between the sheets" by Jack Crusher, whose subsequent jealousy puts him "over the edge". These scenes, in particular, left a bad taste in my mouth upon finishing the book. So how do I rate the book? 5 out of 10 - it gets the 5 because of the way the story holds together so well but it loses the other 5 because it's just not Trek. I feel certain that Gene Roddenberry would not have allowed this book to be published in its current form but would have asked for it to be reworked or, at least, a PG rating.

I anticipated such an excellent book and it had such promise that at the end I felt

like a starving man who had been shown a dining table set with his favourite foods, been allowed to eat my fill and then found out that some of the food was rotten!

BLOODLETTER by K W Jeter DS9 3 Pocket Books £4.50. Reviewed by Marysia Kolodziej

The Cardassians are setting up a base at the other end of the wormhole. Major Kira tries to get there before them, but a Bajoran cult leader has other plans for her. Meanwhile Dr Bashir is trapped in a partially closed wormhole and must persuade the inhabitants to release him.

There is nothing wrong with the actual story line but for some reason it fails to grip. You can't become properly involved in the tale. This makes the book dull and lifeless. Perhaps 6 out of 10; certainly no more.

STAR TREK CREATOR: THE AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY OF GENE RODDENBERRY by David Alexander
Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

I had been looking forward to this since I first heard of it, so when 599 pages (including index) of hardbound book landed on the doormat, I approached it with a certain trepidation. There was no need. This is in every way a very informative, satisfactory and enthralling account of the life of a man who has influenced us all.

It was interesting to read about his background, particularly the influence of his father, who he obviously loved deeply, yet whose opinions were the exact opposite of his own. Gene's early years are covered, including his military service, and we see the responses and attitudes that he was later to use in Star Trek being formed.

Of course, there is considerable information on how Star Trek was conceived and developed through the Classic series, the films, and Next Generation, but we also are given fascinating glimpses into the way Gene's mind worked.

Mr Alexander has made considerable use of Gene's own letters, quoting from his

correspondence with Isaac Asimov, Arthur C Clarke, and Janet Quarton, among others. It is in these letters that we learn what he really thought, of his battles to keep Trek true to his vision. What comes over strikingly, again and again, is the sheer love he inspired in so many different people.

However, this is by no means a whitewash. Gene asked for 'warts and all', and yes, there are a few. I think we would all be grateful, though, to have had lives so rich with meaning.

I have only two reservations about the book. First, I would have liked to see more photographs; second, I think a more distinctive photo could have been chosen for the cover - anyone not knowing what Gene looked like would have to work out by a process of elimination which of the group shot at the shuttle roll-out is Gene.

My verdict would be buy, beg or borrow this book if at all possible. Any fan - any reader - can only be enriched, and their enjoyment of Star Trek increased, by having read this honest and affectionate tribute.

On a personal note, my own enjoyment was enhanced by having seen a copy of the Engel biography a few days previously. I did not buy it, having heard something of its gutter journalism attitude; however, I couldn't resist having a look. The book opened at random at a section where the author was accusing Gene of having claimed all credit for Star Trek, and having denied any contribution by others. I was furious, having only the previous day been listening to a tape of one of Gene's speeches in which, as so often, he gave full credit and acknowledgment to all those who were a part of Star Trek. Obviously, you must make up your own minds about these two biographies, but I can honestly say that Mr Alexander's book will not disappoint you.

GENE RODDENBERRY - The Myth and the Man Behind Star Trek by Joel Engels
Virgin edition £14.99

Reviewed by Marion van der Voort

writer or speaker who defames them, but once they are dead they have no protection at all. This book proves this.

Many people have registered their outrage at some of the things said, or just implied, about Gene. This is the invariable happening after a death. It will probably go on for some years, and then he will come back into favour again, so please bear this in mind.

Having met Gene, and knowing people who knew him well, the answer is probably that a *little* of this is true. Gene was a charming man, attractive to women and vice versa, with lots of bounce, fond of a drink, with many friends and many enemies. He was also occasionally grumpy, unconfident to the point of depression, pigheaded and quite sure he was right.

In other words he was a very talented human being in an environment that was fatal to many people. Like all the artists and writers that I have ever met, he had ups and downs, fell in and out with people, changed his mind - and had the ability to pass on his dream to others.

Engel's book makes a lot of accusations, hard to answer when someone is dead, and even more insinuations, impossible to answer at all.

I do believe that Gene at the end was old, ill and rather overwhelmed at the idea of starting again on a series. He was well over retirement age, a diabetic who suffered from high blood pressure, who was trapped by his own dream.

I am aware that many people out there will take this book as gospel, happy to believe that the idol had feet of clay. If they do, it's their loss. For myself, I've read it from cover to cover, and all I have is a nasty taste in my mouth.

TREK v NEXT GENERATION by James van Hise
Pioneer Books 1993 218 pages, £9.99
Reviewed by Edward Woo

When someone is alive they can sue a

Having obtained this book some time

ago, it has taken me nearly 2 months to read it. This is a large format book (in which this author specialises). It has half a dozen chapters consisting of the original Trek, TNG, the crews of both ships, face to face comparisons of the 2 series, cross-over story themes and finally some conclusions. It has the usual standard candid B and W photographs of the cast.

Personally, I found the book disappointing. It could be that I've already obtained quite a few of this author's works. There is only so much the writer can write without reusing bits from his other books, such as episode synopses or background information. The book is not in chronological order but uses Trek themes, particular storylines or just highlighting particular characters and how they compare. In fact, I was bored with some parts of the book, having already read them (or known about them) earlier.

I am not dismissing the book completely - to anyone who has none of van Hise's books it might be suitable for them. For myself, it's nothing new - or again, as Data would say, 'nothing to write home about'.

**ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I
LEARNED FROM WATCHING STAR
TREK** by Dave Marinaccio Crown
Publishers \$14 (£11.95)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

In 1977 there was *Meaning in Star Trek* by Karin Blair. In 1978 there was *Star Trek: Good News in Modern Images* by Betsy Caprio. 1994 has produced *All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Watching Star Trek*.

Good News in Modern Images found all sorts of biblical references and comparisons in Star Trek. *Meaning in Star Trek* took episodes and incidents and analysed them to death. Without denigrating the obviously sincere beliefs of Ms Caprio or the work that Ms Blair put into her book, as Star Trek books I'd be pushed to give either one more than 2 out of 10. Both, I think, are taking Trek far too seriously with regard to its 'deeper meaning'.

All I Really Need to Know... is a book of short essays; it takes some of the same incidents as the other two books and gives some anecdotes anent the idea or a few philosophical thoughts about them. It is far more readable than *Meaning in Star Trek* and not nearly as evangelical as *Good News in Modern Images* - in other words, I found it far and away the best of the three, and many of the essays give some really quite interesting ideas written in a very readable style. Mark you, you have to get past the very first sentence - "I work in one of the noblest enterprises ever conceived by man, advertising." - and decide to take it with a pinch of salt (hopefully as it's meant) to discover that this book really is readable and not a load of advertising language overstatement.

It's a book to pick up and dip into when you have five minutes to fill; a book that might lead you into a few philosophical thoughts of your own. I'd give it 8 out of 10.

**THE DEEP SPACE LOG BOOK - 1st
SEASON COMPANION** M A Altman and E
Gross Bostree Ltd 1994 110 pages, £9.99
Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is your regular run of the mill large format book from these two writers. Generally there was nothing new to me - nothing that I had not already known. Basically it's an expanded version of the *Cinefantastique* Oct '93 double issue of *Star Trek*, with more details about the production of each episode and the writers' opinions of each storyline, with a star rating.

The first 40-odd pages is devoted to the background of DS9, followed by an episode guide and unusual production information and views of the writers for each story.

There is a 4-section appendix comprising the DS9 comic, a day in the life on the DS9 set and finally a Q and A session from the cast including Rick and Michael from January 1993.

There are one or two nice candid photos of the cast at conventions; the rest are the usual B and W ones from DS9. As Data

would say, 'nothing to write home about' but another book about the ST Phenomenon. The book will sell to a select audience but I must wonder if it is wise to put a book out when only a small minority of the UK population has actually seen it on TV (ie video or satellite) and not on the regular BBC slot?

THE TREK UNIVERSAL INDEX by Thomas Maxwell Boxtree £9.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is one of Boxtree's large format books; Boxtree's version of a Trek encyclopedia. The blurb says it is "...the first-ever guide to the various alien races and the worlds which they inhabit... the ultimate Trek reference book."

Well, of course, sorry, but it's neither. Bjo Trimble's Concordance was the first (the original fanzine version came out in the 70s, though of course it was limited to the Classic TV series), with the professional version in the 80s; and the Okudas' Encyclopedia is probably the ultimate - it's certainly far more detailed (albeit £3 dearer for a much greater page count) - even although it's already out of date.

The very first thing I spotted was a bad mistake; it says "Everything in bold print is 24th century, everything else is 23rd". With one or two exceptions, it's the other way round. Virtually all the bold print items are from the original series. However, I give them full marks for the idea, which does at least give an instant visual clue to which series the item is about.

The Index is split into 5 parts (Planets, Aliens, Characters, Spaceships, and Everything Else - artifacts, plants, plagues, beliefs, etc). Each part is alphabetically arranged, which could make for a slight problem knowing which segment to consult, but there is also a complete index which tells you which page any given item is on. There are no illustrations apart from from 6 small colour pictures - one from each series on front and back covers - which is a disappointment; at 148 pages, it seems to have more space to fit in pictures than the

Encyclopedia, which did manage to include a number of small photos.

Taken all in all, I think the Index is one of Boxtree's better publications, although I did come across one or two nasty typos. It's worth getting if you can't afford the extra £3 for the much more detailed Encyclopedia; it gives basic facts without the background info contained in the Encyclopedia. I did however notice one or two entries for minor characters who were not included in the Encyclopedia! (Granted, the Okudas did say that, even with 396 pages, some things had to be left out.)

PRIME DIRECTIVE Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens Pan Books 1991
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

A world lies in ruins, destroyed by a flagrant violation of the Prime Directive. Officially known as Talin IV it has unofficially been named after the man responsible for its destruction: Kirk's World!

Kirk disgraced, the Bridge crew scattered, McCoy resigned, the Enterprise being refitted by a reluctant Mr Scott and promised to Lieutenant Styles... how could it happen?

The authors make it totally believable. This well written and intelligently plotted story twists and turns and is full of surprises. Even the minor characters are a delight....I particularly liked Glissa the Tellarite and Krulmadden the Orion shipmaster with his inaccurate command of Federation Standard.

One of the few pro novels you could recommend to a non-Trek sci-fi fan without embarrassment. Over 400 pages of compulsive reading.

Highly recommended!

TIME FOR YESTERDAY A C Crispin.
Simon & Schuster Audioworks. Read by Leonard Nimoy and James Doohan.
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen.

The Guardian of Forever is malfunctioning and threatening to destroy the universe. In order to try and discover

what is happening the Enterprise returns to the past to find Spock's son Zar (the result of his brief union with Zarabeth) the only person who has ever successfully melded with the Time Portal.

Mr Doohan does his best with what he's given but despite his valiant efforts he cannot make this fairly pedestrian narrative compelling. Parts of it seem more like Mills & Boon than Trek: Zar captures enemy princess, marries for convenience and then finds he loves her. It might be my imagination but even Leonard Nimoy, doing his "voice of Spock" inserts, sometimes sounds as if he doesn't quite believe what he's reading.

This audio version is an abridgement. It has not persuaded me to try the novel.

POWER HUNGRY Howard Weinstein
Titan Books 1989. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

The Enterprise is delivering famine relief to Thiopa where the ruling government has to contend with ecological problems caused by their new technology and active opposition from the Sojourners, a kind of mystical Green Party.

Howard Weinstein is one of the better Trek writers, usually combining a readable story with good characterisation but this Next Generation novel is strangely unsatisfying. After a strong beginning the story begins to drag. Earlier characters aren't developed and instead of exploring the philosophies of "technology" versus "back to nature" the plot becomes a simple kidnap and chase story. It's as if Mr Weinstein has lost interest in it all. The ending reinforces this impression....and by the time you reach it you'll probably have lost interest too.

Disappointing.

MODEL REVIEW
USS ENTERPRISE - 3 PIECE SET
Reviewed by Rory Smith

The box containing the models seems incredibly large compared to the models, but there are very few things I can complain about about this set. It was a little bit

expensive for what you get, but the actual models have no faults to them at all. They are well detailed and have almost all the stickers, even compared to the larger models. The stand was a little weak for the largest model (D) and broke off after I had pulled it on and off several times. One serious problem was that painting details were not written on the detail sheet.

In conclusion, a good model set as long as you're careful with it and have previous knowledge of the painting details of all three models - 1701, 1701-A and 1701-D.

CONVERSATIONAL KLINGON

Presented by Michael Dorn. Featuring Marc Okrand. Simon and Schuster Audio. Cassette.

Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

A very practical course.....you begin by learning to swear (Linguaphone take note) and then how to converse with native Klingons (or just be impolite to your friends). Also included are interesting snippets of information regarding Klingon culture (head butting contests in the pub) and the kind of tourist facilities you can expect if you visit Kronos: "...you will have a bed, but it is likely to be made of the same material as the floor."

If you study diligently (and you'd better with Lieutenant Worf breathing down your neck) you'll easily shrug off such leading questions as "Are you transporting Tribbles?" and to able to gasp "I feel sick!" after imbibing some Klingon black ale.

Essential stuff....and great fun!

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION:
THE SERIES FINALE: ALL GOOD THINGS DC Comics adaptation 64 pages
Reviewed by Alan Stephen

First off, the cover to this comic is just beautiful, and would make a terrific poster. I hope somebody at DC Comics takes notice! I only wish the internal art was nearly as good.

It is done in a workmanlike fashion and tells the tale very well, though for the series finale I'd have liked something better -

but I suppose to get the comic out in time for the US broadcast speed must have been important.

The adaptation of the story by Michael Jan Friedman is done very well indeed, and I'm sure that even if the TV voyages have come to an end the Comic Book Adventures will continue... The sky's the limit!

STAR TREK DC COMICS No 61: THE DOOR IN THE CAGE RETURN TO TALOS Reviewed by Alan Stephen

I don't normally buy the regular comic, preferring to buy the specials, annuals or collections. I really can't be bothered waiting month to month to complete a story. So it is with some delight that I inform you of this

self-contained story and how well it is done.

Spock returns to Talos to offer Christopher Pike the chance of a normal life after reconstructive surgery at Starfleet. He is shocked to discover that Christopher and Vina have a son, Philip.

The offer of surgery is for Christopher alone; he must decide whether to abandon Vina and the life he has on Talos or to stay and enjoy his life with Vina and Philip and further discoveries of the Talosian technologies.

This is a very well-handled story with more than adequate art. I know it's impossible, but I'd love to see it filmed! Well worth a look.



ANSWERS

Trek Titles (First Quiz)

1. The Day of the Dove
2. The Galileo Seven (*So they were gorillas?*)
3. Tomorrow is Yesterday
4. The Naked Time (*I suppose this makes sense, in a weird sort of way*)
5. The Omega Glory
6. Wrong! It's Operation Annihilate....which presumably seems logical to the Germans.
7. A Piece of the Action (*German version. It means "one of a later and less distinguished generation." Makes sense? No, not to me either. German fans please help...?*)
8. The Savage Curtain
9. Where No Man Has Gone Before
10. The Gamesters of Triskelion
11. The Immunity Syndrome
12. Return to Tomorrow
13. Friday's Child
14. The Trouble with Tribbles (!)

Score: 0: You're not really a fan, are you?

Up to 4 correct : Average-ish

Up to 7 correct : I bet you can do the Telegraph crossword.

Up to 11 correct: You're Japanese?

All correct : You're cheating!

Trek Titles (Second Quiz)

1. Catpaw
2. Charlie X
3. The Cloudminders
4. The Empath
5. Journey to Babel
6. Let That be Your Last Battlefield.
7. The Man Trap
8. The Return of the Archons
9. Wink of An Eye
10. Wolf in the Fold
11. And the Children Shall Lead
12. Menagerie
13. Operation: Annihilate

And any self respecting fan should have got every one of them right!

CROSSWORD - Answers and References

Across

- 1 Redemption
- 7 Neutral (Balance of Terror)
- 8 Bandi (Encounter at Farpoint)
- 9 Foil (Hollow Pursuit)
- 10 Hour (Return of the Archons)
- 11 Nth (The Nth Degree)
- 12 Canada
- 14 Yuta (The Vengeance Factor)

- 17 Tea
- 18 Five (The Galileo Seven)
- 19 Acid (Devil in the Dark)
- 20 Omega (The Omega Glory)
- 21 Tango (The Child)
- 22 Yesterday's (Yesterday's Enterprise)

Down

- 1 Reunion
- 2 Dark (Devil in the Dark)
- 3 Melkot (Spectre of the Gun)
- 4 Tiberius (BEM, among others)
- 5 Unification
- 6 Michael Dorn
- 13 Defiant (The Tholian World)
- 15 Archons (Return of the Archons)
- 16 Avatar (The Silicon Avatar, Datalore)

RACES Answers

- 1. Trill; 2. Aldeans; 3. Douwd; 4. Paxans;
- 5. Menthars; 6. Vulcans; 7. Cardassians;
- 8. Husnok; 9. Ullians; 10. Gomtuu.

TNG QUIZ Answers

- 1) a) 3 times b) T'Rea, Amanda and Perrin;
- 2) 5 ships; 3) 40 ships; 4) The USS Melbourne, which was lost at Wolf 359; 5) The USS Sutherland; 6) the USS Saratoga; 7) Pardek;
- 8) The Pakleds; 9) Commander Riker; 10) The USS Brittain; 11) Mr Hobson; 12) Lt Worl;
- 13) Toral; 14) Kern; 15) Lt Barclay; 16) Ben Maxwell; 17) The USS Repulse; 18) K'Mpec;
- 19) Guinan as 'Gloria from Cleveland'; 20) Ensign Ro; 21) Vigo; 22) Kyle; 23) a) Data b) Hide and Q c) Commander Riker's offer to make him Human; 24) Jean-Luc Riker;
- 25) Data; 26) Ira Greaves; 27) The Dream of the Fire by K'Ratok (spelling subject to change); 28) Kargon of the Pagh in A Matter of Honor; 29) a) Captain Picard and Lt Worl b) Neutral Zone and The Emissary; 30) A martini 'for the vitamins'; 31) Data in The Measure of a Man and he was reluctant because Tasha told him "it never happened"; 32) The Most Toys; 33) The ability to laugh; 34) Visual Instrumentation and Sight Organ Replacement; 35) a) Guinan b) Time's Arrow c) "I'll see you in a few minutes."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



ZINE REVIEWS

ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11

Reviewed by Jean Sloan

Enterprise Incidents 11 contains two excellent stories by Jay Stevensen about the original crew. Both stories are structured like episodes and end with the type of epilogue which characterises Original Trek.

The first story is The Dark Inside, the title referring to the hidden fears and insecurities which are characteristic of Human-link and of half-Human Vulcans. The Enterprise enters orbit around the planet Cerus Alpha to investigate certain interesting readings. The resident alien has the power to project illusions, and the ship becomes trapped because the crew cannot trust their actions. The alien force feeds on emotion - human beings provide a satisfying diet.

The story explores the Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship. The characters are accurately caught; though the story examines Spock's hidden emotional life, the Vulcan is never out of character; his relationship with McCoy is just right; and Jay's portrayal of Kirk examines the character more thoroughly than anything I have read for a long time. To give more detail about the story would spoil it for readers.

The second story, Classroom, is shorter and more light-hearted, though with a touch of underlying menace, a sense that something really nasty is going to happen any minute... Essentially, Spock and Kirk are forced to go back to school on an alien planet - but the topic of the lesson is a little unexpected. The duo are forced to take part or they will be punished with the rather sinister and probably fatal "Reprimand One".

Again the story explores relationships. There are some really funny moments, for example when Kirk and Spock are told their ratings on the "Bala" scale of intelligence; Spock is "only a Bala scale three hundred and sixty". Under the humour, the tension is maintained by the threat.

This zine is vastly better than any of the 'professional' novels. Something else I really enjoyed - Jay's aliens, and I would like to see more of the race hinted at in

Classroom.

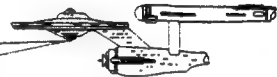
There is something in these stories for everyone (I forgot to mention the cameo appearance by the Klingons in The Dark Inside). The zine is one to buy, keep and reread - my advice is to get a copy before stocks run out!

Zine available from ScoTpress - purchase details in zine ads.

☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



See zine ads for ordering details.

IDIC

IDIC LOG 16 - The Spectres of the Past by Lorna Elliott & Written by Winners by Jeremy Broadribb are the two main stories in this zine, which also includes vignettes by Teresa Abbott and Nina Lynch & Tracy Beadle.

In Spectres, Kruge's family seeks revenge for his death on Genesis, and Kirk is their target. In Written by Winners, three historians travel through the Guardian of Forever to the time of the Eugenics Wars - only to discover that seeing the past in the flesh isn't as easy as they thought it would be... UK £2.50.

Gloria Fry.

SLAVEWORLD - A NOVEL. On an alien planet, where the humanoid population is subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as one of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his Captain. *Warning - although this zine is not explicit, it does contain adult themes. only suitable for readers over 16.* Illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless. A4 format. Price (sterling only) U.K. - £5. (incl P & P)

Village Press

IN THE WILDERNESS 4 - Risk, danger, humour and passion! Why do the alien

Susurra people demand a life, and why does Kirk grant it? Why does the arrival of the youth David and his mentor Dr. Moss raise such a storm of feeling? How does Vulcan fidelity cope when faced with Vulcan duty? Plus "There are Always Alternatives", the ultimate in Multiple Choice; and Kirk and Spock are again in the tense world of "Choice and Chance and Change" (Sequel to ITW2). High quality stories by Daniels, Stuart, Carnall, Roe and Sarne. Beautiful art by Graves, Parnes (full colour) and Ann. Price: UK £7.00.





ZINE ADS

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update. Each advert has the date of the newsletter it was last updated with.

IDIC/Scotpress (8/94) @ = new title

@IDIC LOG 16 - Kruge's family seeks revenge for his death on Genesis, and Kirk is their target; three historians travel through the Guardian of Forever to the time of the Eugenics Wars £2.50

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others U.K. £4.00

IDIC LOG 14 - A SPECIAL NEXT GENERATION ISSUE. A crewwoman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's help; a follow-up mission to Trava has problems; and others. U.K. £4.00

@ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11 - Stories by Jay Stevensen. An alien entity takes control of the crew - but do they know it?; Kirk and Spock encounter a teacher... with a difference. A5 U.K. price, £2.50

@SODDES GAMBIT - a novel by Brenda Kelsey. Sequel to Fifty Ways, but does stand on its own. T'Pring has changed her mind and now wants Spock after all... A5 U.K. price, £2.50 - Our apologies to Brenda for getting the title wrong last time. It certainly proves that Sodde was busy maintaining his reputation!

BLOW BACK by Nicole Comtet. A5. A sequel to Return to the Source. T'Pring's hatred of Spock continues. U.K. £2.50, rest of Europe £3

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 91 A5. McCoy decides to leave the Enterprise and join an emergency medical team; Kirk goes missing; Spock takes some cadets on a survival exercise; and other stories. U.K. £2.50, rest of Europe £3

@MAKE IT SO 22 - A holodeck programme goes wrong, and Data is left for dead; Picard has a problem; Leah Brahms calls on Geordi and others to help run a space trial of an

experimental propulsion A5 U.K. price £2.50 inc P & P.

MAKE IT SO 21 - Picard, Riker & Data are kidnapped by Romulans; The Enterprise picks up a 20th century man in cryogenic sleep; and others. A5 U.K. price £2.50 inc P&P

MAKE IT SO 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 - A5 format. U.K. £2.50 each inc. p&p. No. 16 sold out.

Other issues of E-Log Entries, IDIC Log and Make It So available, also a number of novels. SAE for full list.

SALE

UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £1 per zine

E-LOG ENTRIES 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 U.K. £2.50 each.

ATTUCLAC by David Gomm - Why have ships - Federation, Klingon and Romulan - been disappearing in one area? U.K. £2.50

A CITY WITHOUT WALLS - by Alinda Alain. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on trying to destroy them. U.K. £2.00

GZAZARA by Alinda Alain - A strange woman helps the Enterprise crew. U.K. £2.00

IDIC LOG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 £2.50 each

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin - Kirk as a naval Captain circa 1939 investigates the loss of the Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. Has there been interference from the future? U.K. £2.50

SPINNER OF NIGHTMARES by Pam Baddeley - Who are the hostile aliens on Sigma Orionsis IV? U.K. £2.50

STAR TREK CREDITS - the complete credit listing from the series, compiled by Janet Quarton. A very useful reference manual. U.K. £1.50

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted. Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG & DS9 material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
Up to 2 lbs	\$16.35	\$8.60
Up to 3 lbs	\$22.40	\$11.40
Up to 4 lbs	\$27.40	\$13.90
Up to 5 lbs	\$33.75	\$17.25

For higher weights, add \$4.50/lb air, \$2.25 surface.

EMPTY SPACES by Marcia Pecor. Kirk is being chased... 150 pages, \$11.50 + 1 lb postage; **WHISPER OF THE WIND** (second edition) by Betsy Fisher. A love story within a love story. 100 pages, \$8.50 + 10 oz; **AGAINST ALL ODDS** - tales of triumph in the K/S universe. 160 pages. \$20 + 1 lb; **COVERT ACTION** - Kirk and Spock are sent under cover into the Romulan Empire to steal a long-range transporter prototype \$20 + 1 lb; **IMAGINARY LINES** - Kirk receives death threats and goes into hiding on Vulcan; \$20 + 1 lb; **FEDERATION STANDARD** - TNG - No 1, \$8.50, No 2, \$10, No 3 (new) \$9, 1 lb postage each; **LESSONS LEARNED** by Anne Davenport - The crew of the Enterprise-D discover the survivors of the Minaran nova and their Vian benefactors. 104 pages, \$10.50 + 12 oz; **THE HEIGHT OF HUBRIS** by Linda Knights - Riker is having nightmares. 100 pages, \$11.50 + 12 oz; **QUISINE** No 3 - includes a TNG portfolio \$11 + 8 oz, No 4 all fiction \$14.50 + 1 lb; **THE BAWDY ELECTRIC** adult fiction centering on data and Lore, 100 pages \$9.50 + 8 oz; **SIDE-TREKKED** - ST/TNG, Quantum

Leap/ST, TNG/Brady Bunch, TNG/Aliens, TNG/Back to the Future, TNG/Red Dwarf, TNG/Planet of the Apes. \$13 + 1 lb.

Many other zines available. We are authorised to reprint the following zines; out of print Scotpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R; Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Quartet + 2; all TKuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Authorised US agent for Scotpress, IDIC, BSFR, Kay Stagg, Pat Mitchell, Gloria Fry, Linda Wood, Janet Ellicott, Airwaves Special Editions, Naked Now (South Africa). Our British agents are Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9HG and Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE to either for British prices.

Greycloud Services (6/94)

"Star Trek" and many other zines always available from Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN. I agent for Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, Bjo Trimble and Bernice Russell, and publish my own zines as well as dealing in secondhand zines. Send me a large (at least A5) SAE for a copy of my list.

Merry Men Press (8/94)

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required. **FIRST TIME** is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. Please send for flyers if you want to order older zines as not all of them have the interior art reproduced. **FIRST TIME 1 - 39** available. **WITHIN THE MIRROR 1 - 9** - an all mirror-related K/S zine, series and movie. Full of first time stories, and on time. **BESIDE MYSELF 1-3** - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names. **SCATTERED STARS 1 - 6** - an alternate universe K/S fanzine where wild imagination and first time plots collide. **PLAYFELLOWS 1 - 6** - MULTIMEDIA '/' If

you know what slash is, you don't need any more words. **HEARTS OF FIRE** a K/S novel by Elizabeth Scott - an intriguing mystery, and lots and lots of love. **SHARING THE SUNLIGHT** - K/S novel by Jenna Sinclair. 200 pages Plot, love and Trek. What else can you ask for? **GAMBIT**, a Mirror/'our' universe K/S novel by Kay Wells. **FETISH** - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. We are also looking for quality submissions of prose and art. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

ORION PRESS (6/94)

ERIDANI 22 (TNG); **INVOLUTION 5** (Picard); **IDYLLS 10** (CT romance); **DANCING TILL DAWN** (TNG novella by Cyndi Bayliss Overstreet); Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707-2952, USA.

Zines available from Pat Mitchell : (6/94)

BROTHER'S KEEPER (genzine) a hurt/comfort story featuring Kirk and Spock. UK price £4.50.

MOMENTS IN TIME (adult) Short stories featuring the TNG crew. UK price £5.50. Age statement required

The following zines must be accompanied by an age statement and confirmation that you understand and accept the slash premise.

GEMINI - THE FLAME AND THE FIRE (K/S), the K/S sequel to Brother's Keeper. UK Price £6.00

A TOUCH OF TISH (K/S) - anthology of new and reprinted K/S stories. UK price £9
Now also available:

PROMISES, PROMISES (slash B/D) by Tish. Short stories based on The Professionals. UK price £10.00.

In all cases, price includes P&P. Flyer available for all the zines on receipt of SAE). Foreign orders please send SAE + IRC for price. All zines available in USA from Bill Hupe. Make cheques payable to Pat Mitchell, send orders to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England.

ZINES by Kay Stagg (6/94)

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/

comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.

NEW ZINE - LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URSUS MAJOR MINERS. 138 pages, U.K. £4.80 inc P & P.

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £4 inc P & P.

Still available: **SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME** (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3.50. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (ScoTpress)) 95 pages, £3.75. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £5. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £5.25. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £5.25.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Shatterzine Publications (6/94)

We publish a wide range of multi-media zines on many shows, including: seaQuest DSV, War of the Worlds, The Tomorrow People, Robin of Sherwood, Deep Space Nine, Highlander, V, A-Team and others. For a complete list, send SAE/IRC to Jan Harley, 41 Dovers Park, Bathford, Bath, Avon BA1 7UD.

6/94

VICE VERSA 3, A/U story by S Mason, £4 inc P & P. Last few copies. Simone Mason, Seranis, School Lane, Danehill, W. Sussex RH17 7JQ.

MULTI-SPECIES MEDICINE (6/94) is a newsletter for DS9/Bashir fans, with information and analysis. \$9/6 issues North America; \$12/6 issues elsewhere (U.S. funds, please). FTL Publications, P.O. Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345, U.S.A.

Gloria Fry (8/94)

NEW: SLAVEWORLD - A NOVEL. On an alien planet, where the humanoid population are subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as one of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his Captain. *Warning - although this zine is not explicit, it does contain adult themes. It is only suitable for readers over 16.* Illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless. A4 format. Price (sterling only) U.K - £5. (incl P & P) Europe - £5 plus 3 IRC's.

SHIELDBEARER (and other stories) - Shieldbearer - an A.U. variation of "Where No Man Has Gone Before." Strikeforce - The servo-drones go on strike. (Prize-winner) Like Steel to a Magnet - Klingons abduct the Bridge crew. (prize-winner) Time Trek - A ST/Time Tunnel crossover. Price - as 'Slaveworld.' A4 format. Both zines available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW, G41 3XG SCOTLAND. Note I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell these zines in the U.S.

VILLAGE PRESS (8/94)

IN THE WILDERNESS 4 - Risk, danger, humour and passion! Why do the alien Susurra people demand a life, and why does Kirk grant it? Why does the arrival of the youth David and his mentor Dr. Moss raise such a storm of feeling? How does Vulcan fidelity cope when faced with Vulcan duty? Plus "There are Always Alternatives", the ultimate in Multiple Choice; and Kirk and Spock are again in the tense world of "Choice and Chance and Change" (Sequel to ITW2). High quality stories by Daniels, Stuart, Carnall, Roe and Sarne. Beautiful art by Graves, Parnes (full colour) and Ann. Price: UK £7.00, USA \$23.00, Canada £10.00, Australia £10.50, Europe £9.00. (inc overseas airmail and p&p). Please make cheques payable to Rosemary Wild (not Village Press, new bank regs.) Dollar cheques accepted.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 is temporarily out of print.

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Sock falls foul of xenophobic Dr. Quaille; Lt. Spock faces Command Training; Strange desert encounters on Vulcan; Sarek loses control! A densely packed read! Quality writing by Rowes, Stuart, Daniels, Carnall and Forrest.

Price as ITW4..

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. Stories by Resch, Daniels, Stuart, Stallings and Ferris, Gates, Rowes and others. Prices as ITW4.

THE EXTREMISTS a novel by Eva Stuart. The Klingon Peace has been signed. The Enterprise and Ahrax must prove that they can work together. Follow their crews through danger, deception, dinosaurs and the conga as they battle to keep the peace. Prices as ITW4.

All zines contain the K/S premise. For new readers; an age statement please plus a note that you understand the premise.

Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (6/94)

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$10 Bulk mail, \$15 First Class. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 USA.

Foreign subscriptions: Contact the Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.

Canada: Star Trek Association of Regina, POB 36007, Regina, Sask, S4S 7H8 Canada.

United Kingdom £8/6 issues. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN.

Europe: Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 2126 Adendorf, Germany

Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.

Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

Brenda Callagher (8/94)

AIRWAVES: a computer printed multimedia zine, over 32 issues available. Submissions wanted for future issues, no limits to length. Cross-overs and/or spoofs especially welcome. PCW (3" - 180k or 3.5" 720k) users can submit their work on disk to save postage. Compatible with PC's using MSDOS on 3.5" (720K) but please use ASCII for documents. Disks will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) 10 page comprehensive flyer to:

Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane,
Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

8/94

K/S Zines and TekWorld Comics, nos 14-22
(ongoing, can supply) Write for lists to
Barbara Grainger, 268A, High Street,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 1DZ.

Galactic Friendship 8/94

Star Trek magazine on floppy disks (only
Amiga 500-4000). We bring Star Trek to your
Commodore Computers: Stories, games,
news, animations, samples, art-shows and
much more... Price: First issue (2 floppies) £3
including postage. Contact Galactic
Friendship, c/o Maria Nausch,
Schmalzhofgasse 20/12, A-1060 Vienna,
Austria.

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



ARCHON '94 The 38th British Star Trek Convention. 26th-29th August 1994 at the Edwardian International Hotel, Heathrow, London. Registration: Full £30, under 16s £15, under 5s free (credit card payments accepted). Room Rates Twin/Double £31 pppn, single £37 pppn. Guests: William Campbell (The Squire of Gothos), Richard Arnold, Chas Evans (UIP), Terry Shuttleworth (CIC Video), Mark Ryan (Nazir in Robin of Sherwood), Lee Sullivan (TekWar Comics Artist), Len Green and Sean Leaning (Amblin-Mation Animators). For registration form and details write to Archon Registrations, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG. (enclose SAE)

IRECON 4 3rd & 4th September, 1994. The Royal Hotel, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Guest (work permitting): Gates McFadden. Programme includes guests, role-play board games, videos, workshops, dealers' room etc. SAE + IRC for info from Irecon 4, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland. Tel: 061 - 472812

MIDCON '94 (British 21st Anniversary Star Trek Convention) Our 13th Annual Convention. 7th - 9th October, 1994. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Our 8th consecutive year at this venue... Confirmed Guest Richard Arnold (Freelance Star Trek Consultant). Other guests to be announced. Registration Rates: Adults £30.00 (children

prorata). Instalment plan available. Further information from Terry Elson, MIDCON '94, 8 Ennerdale Close, OADB, Leicester LE2 4TN. Please enclose a SAE.

STARFLEET ACADEMY WEEKEND 21st-23rd October, 1994. Grosvenor Hotel, Morecambe. Registration £15. Room £25 pppn inc. full English breakfast. No single room supplement. 4 video rooms (plus Trek channel on your room TV) - 24hr video, 4 bars - 24hr opening. Gambling at Quark's (winnings redeemable at dealers' tables). Academy training with guest Instructors and Speakers, includes Starfleet Medical, Unarmed Combat, Laser Combat, Klingon Language, Astrogation, Starfleet Command, Fencing, Shipbuilding, Video Workshop, Starfleet History, Alien Make-Overs, Model Workshop, Klingon Cookery Class, Order of Battle, Zefram Cochran Warp Theory Lecture and lots more! Plus Dealer Room, Debate Panels, Discos, Fancy Dress etc. SAE to Bolian Events, c/o 43 Lodore Road, South Shore, Blackpool FY4 2JL.

WOLF 359 in association with 1701 A-D 28th - 31st October 1994. Holiday Inn Leicester. Registration £30 (till Dec 93), children under 16 years half price, under 7 years FREE. Payments by instalments accepted. Accommodation: All rooms include B&B. Triple £25.00, Twin/Double £30.00, Single £41.00. Enquire about the QUAD at £22.50. Young adults under 19 years are free when sharing with a parent. (breakfast will be charged additionally). All enquiries to Margo White, 37 Branksome

Road, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4HG. Please enclose a SAE.

LATCon University of London Union WC1 Saturday 19th November 1994.

London's one day Star Trek Convention. Even bigger even, better than last year! SAE for details to LATCon 94, 9 Upper Flat, Mulgrave Road, Croydon, CR0 1BL.

SOL III '95 - the 39th British Star Trek Convention. 26-29 May 1995. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Charities: Shelter, Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Registration Fee: £30 Adult; £15 5-14 yrs; under 5's free. For further information and registration forms, write to Sol III, c/o Jean Barron, 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, London E12 5QF.

LIGHTSPEED '95 1st-3rd September 1995. The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Charity R.N.L.I. Full Registration £35. SAE for registration form to Lightspeed Conventions, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

OTHER EVENTS

STAR TREK/SCI-FI EXTRAVAGANZA M.G.M. Cinema, 10-11 September 1994

Films, merchandising, stalls, quizzes, computer games, talking cosmos, role playing, Trek/Ham radio, video photos. Special guest appearance of RTE Top Astronomer: Mr David Moore. £8 at day or £15 weekend in advance from N.G.M. Box Office or Tel; 0762 345498 for more details.

G-FORCE A Star Trek get-together at Alton Towers on 25 September 1994. All fans are encouraged to come along for this fun day out to enjoy all that the UK's premier theme park has to offer. For advance ticket details send an SAE to Shaun Brannigan, 7 Talbot Drive, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8HG.

ALBACON 94 Scotland's Premier Science Fiction Convention. 21-24 October, 1994 Guest of Honour Robert Asprin. Attending membership £30. SAE for info to M Drayton, 10 Atlas Road, Springburn, Glasgow G21 4TE. Tel: 041 558 2862.

TRANSYLVANIA '94 29th October, 1994 Novotel, Hammersmith, London. Rocky Horror Convention. Reg: £25 plus 3 SAEs until 31/5/94, £30 plus 3 SAEs until 20/10/94. Meet the Guests, a chance to dress up and win some great prizes, and your chance to win a meal on us at the real Frankenstein's Place! SAE for registration forms to: Transylvania '94, 1 Elm Grove, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kents TN11 9HE. Overseas - please enclose IRCs.

ARMADACON 6 Convention. Astor Hotel, Plymouth. 5th-6th November, 1994.

Guests so far include stuntman John Carrigan, modelmaker Martin Bower (Space 1999, Red Dwarf), author Mary Gentle. Full registration £20. Accommodation £29 pppn - single/double/twin and triple available. Events to include guest panels, quizzes, masquerade, turkey reading, Golden Drake awards, auction, Unseen University Challenge, Klingon Soap Opera, the latest Star Trek and Babylon 5 episodes. Charity RNIB talking books for the blind. For further details write to Marion Pritchard, 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Please enclose an SAE. Tel (0752) 267873.

THE FOURTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 18-20th, 1994, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration Fee: £20.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Haves, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

ROBOCON Half Man - Half Machine All Fun! 17th-19th February 1995. The Tollgate Hotel, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent. A convention based on Robots, Androids and Replicants in media and books. Full registration until 31/8/94 £25, then £30. Other rates available. SAE for info to Robocon, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a 7 night Star Trek cruise to Venice and the Greek Islands from 3rd -11th June 1995. Guests Colm Meaney, John de Lancie, Jonathan del Arco, George Takei, others TBA. For more

information please send a stamped SAE to Starship Voyages (41), 5 Plough Rise, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR, England. (This cruise is organised for fans by fans.)

INTERSECTION The 53rd World Science Fiction Convention 24-28 Aug 1995. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow. Guests of Honour Gerry Anderson & Samuel R Delany. Registration £60 until September 1994 when it will increase. Events include 3 video programmes, a 16mm film programme, 6 programme streams featuring everything from serious SF to filk, roleplaying games, comics etc. There will be a media stream and a huge Dealers' Room. Write asking for details to Intersection, Admail 336, Glasgow G2 1BR.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

STARDREAM I CONVENTION 8th - 11th September, 1994 Mannheim Congress Centre, Rosengarten. Guests include: Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Mark Lenard, George Takei, Robin Curtis, Gates McFadden, John de Lancie, LeVar Burton. Full registration: 280,-DM till 31st December, 300,-DM till 31st March, 320,-DM till 30th June, 340,-DM till 31st August, 1994. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Star Trek Fanclub, Enterprise, c/o Sylvia Strybuc, Hans Sachs Ring 17, 68199 Mannheim-Niederfeld, Germany.

VIENNA-CON 17th - 19th February 1995. Austrotel in 1150 Vienna, Felbergasse 4. Guests to be announced. Activities include;

videos, dealers' room, guest talks and autograph sessions, games, discussion panels, fancy dress etc. Send an SAE + IRC for details to Galactic Friendship, c/o Maria Nausch, Schmalzhofgasse 20/12, A-1060 Vienna, Austria.

CON-COURSE 4, 12th - 14th May 1995, Rieckhof Hamburg-Harburg. Guests confirmed: Richard Arnold and Bjo Trimble, further TNG or DS9 guest TBA. Registration 140 - 160 German marks. For more info send SAE plus IRC to CON-COURSE, c/o Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany.

PERSONAL COLUMN

I'm a member of IDIC; a huge fan of Star Trek, both Classic and TNG; I also like Star Wars, Knight Rider. I already have one good pen pal in England, but I'd like more pen pals anywhere in the world. I am 28 and work as a volunteer with the handicapped. Alberto Gorin, de Bruynlaan 5, 6816 PW Arnhem, Holland.

Would anyone from either Glasgow or local areas, who has already registered for the Stardream 1 Convention in Mannheim, Germany on 8th - 11th September 1994, please contact me as I would like to find out some more information regarding travelling there and also accomodation. J Hurles, 43A Cadoc Street, Kirkhill, Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8LQ.

Christine Bury - I am 36 yrs old, a fan of the following shows: Original Trek, TNG, DS9 V, Quantum Leap, seaQuest DSV, Planet of the Apes (TV), Logan's Run, Fantastic Journey, Highlander (TV), Alias Smith & Jones (P Duel). The actors: Leonard Nimoy, Roddy McDowell, Jared Martin, De Forest Kelley, Dean Stockwell. I also enjoy swimming, walking my dog, reading: Anne McCaffrey, David Eddings, Asimov, Trek, Horseclans - particularly fanzines (written by fans for fans). I am a sporadic letter writer but if you're willing to wait I'm willing to write!! I would enjoy any and all penfriend nationalities but unfortunately only write in English. Christine Bury, 69A Hillfield Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 1QB.

I would like to know how to contact actors/actresses agents and or their shows. Any help with this problem would be gratefully - gobbled up! Christine Bury, 69A Hillfield Road, West Hampstead, London NW6 1QB.

To female IDIC members in Leicester area. Are you interested in attending Midcon '94 at the Holiday Inn from 7 - 9 Oct, but have no one to go with. My name is Tina Baker and I would really like to attend a convention. please contact me at 30 Charnwood Avenue, Thurmaston, Leicester LE4 8FJ



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE: Official Fan Club mag #90 (Making of Relics) £1; Starburst Special #13 (Star Trek special) £3; PAPERBACKS £1.50 ea.- Dreadnought!, Kobayashi Maru, Flag Full of Stars, Star Trek 6:TUC; GIANT NOVELS £2 ea.- Enterprise - First Adventure, Shadow Lord; "The Classic Episodes" (3 volumes, 25th ann. ed.) £3 ea.; 2 sow-on patches, £1 ea.; 5 various cloisonne pins, £3 ea.; HARDBACKS £5 ea.- Prime Directive, Lost Years, Renuion; World Of Star Trek £5. Will swap for any Star Wars, Babylon 5 or seaQuest DSV items. Phone Edwin on (0273) 734860 for more details.

FOR SALE - Various zines and background books, also a Konami Star Trek Talking game. Send SAE for details to Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

FOR SALE - 1 TNG sticker album complete (but 2) £1; 1 set of O/S Pizza Hut cups £3; 1 set of TNG Pizza Hut cups £3; 1 O/S Compendium £6; 1 O/S Star Fleet Manuel £6; 1 Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise £4; 1 TNG working phaser £5; 1 TNG working communicator £3; 6 TNG novels (ring for details) £1 each. Please ring after 6pm on (0438) 359059.

FOR SALE - If you want any ST pictures scanned and put onto disc or printed in colour, phone Raj on 021 515 2539. For colour prints there is a charge of £1.50 due to the cost of a colour cartridge. (NB - send the item in a secure package - I will not accept responsibility for items that are bent or creased in the post.)

FOR SALE - Trading card singles for the following sets; TNG inaugural, TNG episode collection, DS9, masterpieces, 25th anniversary series 1 & 2. Also available TNG Panini stickers, most numbers are available of all sets. SAE for list of numbers available to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - Many Pocket Books and Titan editions of original novels - also Star Trek annuals for £3 each. Write with SAE for list to: L. Collinson, 35 Chelsea Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 1NH.

FOR SALE - Gen and K/S zines, please send SAE for list to Mrs Linda C. Court, 5 Smithay Meadows, Christow, Exeter, Devon EX6 7LU.

FOR SALE - Books, zines, records, signed photos of William Shatner, Jimmy Doohan, George Takei, Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, Wil Wheaton, Marina Sirtis and others. Please send SAE for list to Samantha Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 4PF.

FOR SALE - Shatner: Where No Man, New Voyages 1, Encounter at Farpoint, Maybury (Patrick Stewart's 1981 BBC TV series - all paperbacks) IDIC newsletters 26 onwards. SAE for details and list of other books. Jeremy Briggs, 52 South Scotstoun, South Queensferry, West Lothian EH30 9YD.

FOR SALE - My zine collection. Original series only, some K/S. Also TNG tapes. Send SAE for list to Lynne Kew, 29 North Street Caversham, Reading RG4 8JA.

WANTED - A copy of Def II - Telling Tales, broadcast on BBC2 9/5/94; a feature on the PA to the boxer Chris Eubank. John W Goss, 48 Douglas Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3JT.

WANTED - Has anybody got a copy of the interview with Scott Bakula on TV AM from July 92 and could I please borrow it on VHS SP/LP. I will pay postage both ways. Ms. Karen Davies, 34 Dagnall Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6SS.

WANTED - Disney videos, especially Lady and the Tramp and The Little Mermaid (original version). Fair price paid or name your swap. Lynne Kew, 29 North Street Caversham, Reading RG4 8JA.

WANTED - Does anyone know where I can buy a copy of 'Virtual Data' and also the Classic Trek screen-saver for PC Windows? Any help would be appreciated. Neil Safi, 4 Stubbington Close, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 3QF.

WANTED - Can anyone help with converting a Long Play NTSC to Pal? Contact Maggy, 22 Purefoy Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5GL

WANTED: Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazines back issues. Please phone Edwin on (0273) 734860.

WANTED - Bill Shatner's Tek World trading cards Nos 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 45, 46, 47, 67, 71, 72, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 94, 95, 97, 98. If anyone can help please contact Anne Gregory, 27 Ashby Rd. Woodville, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 7BZ

WANTED - Star Trek bubblegum cards 1969 AB&C Gun Cards Nos 8, 35, 45, 46; 1976 Topps set, Star Trek (TWOK) Fantasy Trading Card Co (30 card set); Lyons Maid (TMP) card no 23, ST:TNG Inaugural Album, trading cards and space caps from Playmates (DS9 and TNG) figures and toys, and

American videos episodes cards. Promotional and prototype Star Trek cards also wanted. (Will exchange or buy.) Send lists and prices to Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, Scotland DD4 6NP. Also wanted Gold Key Star Trek comics; your prices paid within reason. Send list to Stephen Rothwell.

WANTED - I have read and enjoyed Kraith Collected No 5 and would like to obtain the rest of the series (1 - 6, I think, excluding 5 which I already have.) Is anyone willing to sell me these zines? I will pay a reasonable price. Thank you. Sue Richardson, 30 Ivanhoe Close, Langley Green, Crawley, W. Sussex RH11 7UF [Ed - Try Janet Elicott, address in zine ads section.]

WANTED - Star Trek Chronology (History of the Future) or Star Trek Encyclopedia. Also any magazines or articles on CT. Phone Rai on 021 515 2539.

WANTED - Videos (VHS-PAL) of "Entertainment Tonight salutes TNG" (Sky One 8-May-94), "Larry King Live" about TNG (CNN 15-May-94), "Trek 25th Anniversary Special" (MTV), or anything about Marina Sirtis. Will pay costs. Please contact: Patrick Ceuppens, Maanstraat 27, B-2500 Lier, Belgium.

WANTED - Video recording (VHS) of Entertainment Tonight - Salutes Star Trek. Sky One 8/5/94. Would like to borrow or buy (will pay any costs) Contact Tina Baker on (0533) 695866. Any time after 6 pm.

WANTED - the con video from Starbase '93. Please phone Sara on 081 422 0769 before 7 pm if possible.

WANTED - A copy of the Entertainment Tonight Star Trek Special to borrow or buy. Please contact Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

WANTED - A set of Next Generation Pizza Hut cups, will pay costs. Also wanted: a copy of the Entertainment Tonight Star Trek special, all costs paid for a good copy. Please contact Mark Cooksey on 0533 607331 after 4 pm.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

Middle Earth Fantasy and Science Fiction Shop, 71 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE stocks a complete range of Star Trek books, posters, badges and assorted memorabilia including pens, bookmarks, postcards, chromeart prints, "T" shirts, trading cards, comics, magazines, holograms, baseball hats, games, pewter models and additionally, second hand books. They have a mail order service.

MISC

PENPAL LIST Open to all. Send your ad to S'Talisha, 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2RP, England. For a copy of the list (continuously added to) send a stamped addressed envelope plus a loose 2nd class stamp (2 International Reply Coupons from abroad, buy from post office). List currently (July 94) has 63 listings, male/female age 9-51 from 19 countries worldwide. Includes 21 SF fans. Any queries? UK - send SAE; Elsewhere - send to IRCs.

BOOKSEARCH - Let me be your eyes and ears around Hey-on-Wye's 20+ bookshops, and I'll do my best to find the books you want. SAE for details to Lesley Arrowsmith, Lesley Arrowsmith, The Darren, Llanigon, Nr. Hay-on-Wye, Brycheiniog HR3 5QD.



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

Fan Clubs Associated - Alien, Star Wars, Terminator. For further details send an SAE to 8 Victoria Close, Thornbury, Bristol, Avon BS12 1JE.

Interesting: Cult Comedy Society & N/L. Professional n/l crammed with reviews, cast/crew interviews, exclusive features, bits of politics and news & cast updates from series past, present and forthcoming. From The Young Ones to Blackadder and beyond. Open submissions policy and personal enquiry service. Comprehensive coverage from the one and only official cult comedy zine. SAE/IRCs: Interesting, Dove Dale, 9 Narrow Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9ND.

MISC

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

LOCAL GROUPS

Most of these groups have monthly meetings. Please enclose an SAE when writing to them for details.

To any IDIC members in the Enfield/N. London/Hertford areas interested in meeting up once a month or so, attending cons and other Trek stuff. Send your subspace transmissions to: Paul Jennings, 55 Aylands Road, Enfield, Middex EN3 6PW. Or phone 0992 764 140.

Any IDIC members in Wolverhampton/Walsall area interested in getting together for chats or evenings out about Trek please contact: Mrs Glyn Holland, 53 Honeybourne Way, Willenhall, WV13 1HN.

Aberdeen - Starbase Apollo Captain Scott McMillan, c/o Starbase Apollo, 73 Thistle Drive, Portlethan.

Airdrie - Warp Nine Tudor Hotel.

Ayr Trek - Regular meetings every 2 months in the Elms Court Hotel, Ayr. Latest episodes and dealers' room. Contact James on 0294 463381 for further details. Forthcoming meetings; 14th Aug, 9th Oct, 4th Dec

Ashford - Energize Weekly meetings. Tel. Dave & Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

Brighton - The Outer Zone: Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

Bury St Edmunds - Dreamweavers (Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi). Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

Coventry - Something Else Group Phone Maggy Tel: 0203 503113

East Scotland - The Bridge Crew, Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Next meeting 4th September, Hospitality Inn.

Hull Starfleet 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE, or phone Karen on 0482 875 208.

Ipswich Starfleet Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF.

Leeds Starfleet: Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or ring (0532) 742977.

London Star Trek Group Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

Kirkcaldy - U.S.S. Tianamen, Zander Bruce, 73 Brown Crescent, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB.

Manchester Starfleet: PO Box 35, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3GZ.

Merseyside - U.S.S. Discovery. Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

- Sentinel One SF/ST club. Sheri, 17 Bridge Street, Earlstown, N - LE - W. WA12 9BE.

North Wales Local Group. Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

Nottingham - Prime Directive Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF.

Plymouth - Drake Science Fiction & Fantasy Association, Tony Durks, 125 Grenville Road, St Judes, Plymouth PL4 9QA. Tel (0752) 666591

West Midlands - Space Central Lee Owers Sansome, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4HY.

☆☆☆☆

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

Committee Addresses:

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan,
Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages,
Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH,
Scotland

Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Road,
Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5EW, Scotland

Helen White, 61 Hill Street, Reading, Berks
RG1 2NT

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CONTENTS

Alien Sex Appeal	63
Answers to Quizzes	86
Armin Shimerman	68
Better Communications	50
Book & Video Reviews	79
Cast & Crew News	9
Close Encounters of Furred Kind 2	54
Command Ability	74
Con Ads/General Ads	93
Crossword	77
Deep Space 9 vs Babylon 5	71
Diane Duane	48
Is Fandom too Introspective	52
Intersection	53
Jay Leno	49
John M. Ford	57
Kirk	68
Latest Star Trek News	3
Let's Stop Bill Bashing	60
Merchandise	11
Perfect Mate	72
Plagiarism - or Coincidence	58
Postbag	12
Races in Star Trek	77
Rene Auberjonois	67
Rose by Any Other Name	75
Showbiz Today	49
Star Trek in the News	7
ST:ING Quiz	78
Teach me Standard Please	64
Test Tube Spock	61
Time Travel	59
Trek of a Lifetime	56
Trouble with Trills	65
Would You Let These People...	69
Zine Ads	89
Zines - New Zines	88
Zine Reviews	87

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